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ADMIRALTY WAR DIARIES

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ADMIRALTY WAR DIARIES

1 January 1941 to 31 January 1941

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Operations Volume. January 1941.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.1.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

MINNIE DE LARRINAGA.

Following is proposed for S.S. MINNIE DE LARRINAGA. Ship leaves Tilbury with two tugs on 3/1, runs over DG range and proceeds to Southend. LADY BRASSEY and two drifters are sailed from Dover to arrive Southend p.m./3. All leave Southend 1000/4 and arrive Dover about 0100/5. Ship to be sunk at daylight 5/1.
(V.A.Dover 1115/1 to C.in C. Nore).

3.1.1941.
FRIDAY.

Mining.

Faroes - Iceland Minefield.

Question of gap in minefield between Faroes and Iceland is under consideration, in addition to the gaps already allowed her.

2. A gap 30 miles wide would seriously reduc effectiveness of minefield, but circumstances might arise where its existence would be of great value to us.

3. A staggered gap would minimise loss of effectiveness without unduly impeding our movements.

4. If you consider a gap should exist, sugges minefield be laid in two portions. The South-East corner of the Northern part to be in 62° 50'N., 11° 40'W. The North-West corner of the southern part to be in 63° 05'N., 10° 00'W.

5. This proposal allows room for reinforcemen within the 300 fathom line, and it will be possible to close the gap if desired later.

6. Request your remarks.
(V.C.N.S. 1330/3 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.1.1941.
FRIDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Operation "Begun".

My 1902/12/12. Operation "Begun". Object. Denial of supplies to enemy.

2. Conference held Mombasa 1/1 between SHROPSHIRE, CERES, COLOMBO and Air and Army representatives to attend to all factors and draw up plan using the above three ships and available air co-operation.

3. Conclusions.
(a) Navigational difficulties prevent C Class Cruisers from firing from effective range.

(b) Unless the risk of sinking and/or serious damage can be accepted, unarmoured ships not justified close nearer than 20,000 yards of unsilenced shore batteries.

(c) Air co-operation bombers and fighters essential. Air spotting required.

(d) Course of action.

(i) Capture of port. This is real solution but not ready for it yet.

(ii) Destroying new arrivals. Air Force confident of achievement quickly with minimum risk of loss. More frequent air reconnaissance necessary to detect new arrivals. Powerful deterrent.

(iii) Silencing of batteries by bombardment and/or bombing. Destruction cannot be guaranteed by either methods.

(e) Plan for (d) (III). SHROPSHIRE and the 10 available bombers can only attack one battery or shipping and one batteryfor 15 minutes ship firing from 20,000 to 24,000 yards. Limit of 15 minutes imposed by fighter endurance.

4. I concur in conference conclusions and have decided that results likely to be obtained from 3 (e) does not justify risk of damage to SHROPSHIRE at present time.

5. To make attack worth while I consider at least two modern cruisers are necessary and sufficient aircraft (understood to be 18) to bomb all three batteries. Appropriate fighter aircraft in addition.

6. Until these forces are available intend to adopt 3 (d) (ii) above so far as Air Force can undertake with their present limited number of aircraft and future land commitments (C.in C. E.I. 1300Z/3 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.1.1941.
FRIDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Air Operations, against Kismayu.

Reference A.T. 2229/2/8 and A.O.C. Aden's 1146/18/12.

Admiralty and Air Min. suggest for your consideration that special Swordfish flight now at Aden should be moved to Kenya to operate against Kismayu.

2. Cucumbers can be expected to remain active for at least a year after planting.

3. If you do not require these aircraft to operate against either Assab or Kismayu request you will inform Air Ministry, and unit will be disbanded.

4. Once unit has been disbanded no further suitable R.A.F. aircraft can be made available.

5. Stocks of cucumbers are being supplied to Trincomalee and Aden for use by F.A.A. A.T. 2301/5/11 to C.in C. E.I. only, refers. (Head of M. 1726/3 to C.in C. E.I.)

4.1.1941.
SATURDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Hvalfiord. Use as fuelling base. Protection of.

Following from Chiefs of Staff to F.O.I.C. and G.O.C. Iceland.

It is intended to use Hvalfiord near Reykjavik as a fuelling base for escorting craft on the Iceland route for North Atlantic convoys and for A.M.C's on Denmark Strait patrol. As soon as enemy discover that we are making use of this anchorage for escorts, we must expect them to employ long-distance aircraft to attack our oilers and the ships in the anchorage.

The anchorage will be brought into use about end of January but the additional A.A. guns (8 heavy and 8 light) which we are allocating

/for

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.1.1941.
SATURDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Hvalfiord. Use as fuelling base. Protection of. (Contd.)

for its defence will not arrive until some weeks later. You should therefore give such temporary protection to the anchorage as you can afford by redisposing your present limited resources in A.A. guns.

One flight of fighter aircraft will be sent to Iceland later in the year if they can be made available. In anticipation of their arrival you should ensure that suitable aerodromes are ready for operation by the end of April 1941. The Air Ministry are arranging for the despatch and erection of the necessary R.D.F. equipment to give full effect to the fighter protection when available.
(1st S.L. 1453/4 to F.O.I.C. Iceland to W.O. 2010/4 to G.O.C.Iceland Force).

6.1.1941.
MONDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Air Operations against Kismayu.

Your 1726/3. This is already being considered. Chief objections at present appear to be (a) Feasibility of operation due to distance of suitable aerodrome. (b) Fouling of harbour to our own ships during operation "CANVAS".

2. As regards (a) Request operational range loaded Swordfish in tropics.

3. As regards (b). (i) Can active life of CUCUMBERS be adjusted to certain maximum of two months. (ii) Are CUCUMBERS fully effective in locality under consideration.
(C.in C. E.I. 0430Z/6 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.1.1941.
TUESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Operation "Monsoon". Information just received that an R.A.F. cyphe in whuch details of MONSOON were promulgated is psobably compromised. You must therefore expect your destination and flying procedure to be known to the enemy. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2147/7 to FURIOUS, DELHI).

8.1.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Jan Mayen. Following communication and Meteorological arrangements are proposed for Jan Mayen Island.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 0231/8 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

Operation Rubble. Following for D.N.I. from N.A.

1. Prevailing ice conditions on Swedish West Coast prejudice chances of ships leaving for U.K. Moreover, any considerable further delay must have serious adverse effect on morale of ships' crews. We feel that unless requisite weather conditions for evasion of expropriation during the next seven days (grp. omitted), it is probable that ships may remain frozen in during ice period.

2. Alternatively ships could be sailed during existing moonlight nights but is unlikely the crews would sail unless promised naval support in Kattegat at a point not far from Swedish territorial waters.

dy and their

Amended ~~epics~~ are as follows:-

/ELIZABETH

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.1.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation Rubble. (Contd.)

ELIZABETH BAKKE 17, JOHN BAKKE 15, TAI SHAN 15 TAURUS 13½, RANJA 11½.

4. Please telegraph urgently your instructions. Repeat M.E.W.
(Mr. Mallet Stockholm 1215/8).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Treatment of Vichy Warships, and escorted Merchant ships.

Your 1907/30/12. It is appreciated that instructions contained in my 1350/29 will make it more difficult to intercept French warships if Vichy Government decide to attack Free French West Africa or Gold Coast and Nigeria though there is no evidence that a seaborne attack on British African territory is contemplated. It cannot be stated with certainty that Vichy Government have abandoned all idea of carrying out counter-attack to regain control of Free French Africa but until we are led to believe that expedition is being prepared for this purpose it has been decided that we must accept risk of surprise attack and allow French warships to proceed South of Dakar. It is particularly necessary to avoid where possible provocative action against Vichy Government at a time when there is evidence of a possible split between Vichy Government and Germany and a possibility of being able to reach an understanding with Vichy which would remove risk of attack on Free French Africa. Should, however, political situation change to our disadvantage, position will be reviewed and you will be informed.

With regard to escorted French merchant ships going to Ivory Coast and Dahomey, you will have seen from my 0042/3 that it is not our present policy to inferfere with escorted French Merchant Ships except in Straits of Gibraltar.
(V.C.N.S. 2206/8 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

9.1.1941.
THURSDAY.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Monsoon".

Cancel previous instructions.

1. FURIOUS is to be sailed on 18/12 with W.S.5A. Fast for Operational MONSOON.

2. Arrangements as in my 1852/5 hold good, except that forty Hurricanes with wings off and nine Fulmars are to be embarked. Six Skuas are to be retained.

3. Boiler cleaning party will be provided. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1700/9 to C.in C. W.A.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.
East Indies.

Air Operation Against Kismayu.

C.in C. E.I. 0430Z/6.

(a) Air Min. consider that aerodromes at Garissa or Lamu might be used. Both are well within range of SWORDFISH.

(b) Suggest you discuss with G.O.C. M.E. desirability of blocking harbour by air attack at early date as opposed to leaving it open until CANVAS can take place.
(c) Para.3 (1) No. (d) Para.3 (ii) Yes.
(Hd. of M. 1538/9 to C.in C. E.I).

America and West Indies.

Convoy T.C.9.

Understood between six and seven thousand personnel ready to sail from Canada to U.K. by 1/2. Three ships available in Canadian waters - DUCHESS OF YORK, GEORGIC and WARWICK CASTLE. Suggest, therefore, that these vessels should form Convoy T.C.9 and sail about 1/2. Battleship escort will be required for the ocean voyage. Request your remarks.
(D.O.D.(H) 1353/9 to R.A.3.B.S.)

Your 1353/9. Between 6 and 7 thousand military and air personnel can be ready to embark at Halifax about 1/2 but early confirmation most desirable in order to complete arrangements this end. Also request early confirmation of names of ships in view of your 2251/6 and 1309/6.
(N.C.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1614/9 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
SATURDAY.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Minefield in Little Sole Bank.

It has been decided that the minefield on the Little Sole Bank to be augmented by ADVENTURE during January dark night period.

2. Positions proposed are:-

(a) In a direction 047° from 48° 32'N., 09° 22'W.

(b) In a direction 047° from 48° 22'N., 09° 04' W.

Each line to be 10 miles long.

3. ADVENTURE will be kept for this duty from 20/1.

4. Request you will take charge of these operations.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1407/11 to C.in C. W.A.)

Aircraft Mining at Karm Sound.

1. It is desired to lay aircraft mines in Karm Sund, Norway.

2. This is a repetition of operation BOTTLE, which was carried out in June 1940 by F.A.A. Aircraft.

3. If you concur, request that arrangements may be made to do this at the earliest convenient date.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1409/11 to A.O.C.in C. C.C.)

Minefields to be laid off Norway.

1. It has been decided that CACHALOT is to lay a minefield near the Kolbeinsflu Buoy (off Bud) when she is again available for service.

2. On completion of this operation CACHALOT is to reload and lay mines in two positions in the leads near the North Cape which have been selected as suitable by the V.A.(S)

3. It is suggested that the Bud Minefield should have flooders and that the second should not repeat not.

4. V.A.(S) is requested to issue the necessary orders for these operations.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1410/11).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.1.1941.
SATURDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

1. It has been decided that INTREPID and IMPULSIVE shall lay mines in the neighbourhood of Fro Havet during the January dark night period.

2. Navigational aid during the approach will be given by a submarine to be detailed for this duty by V.A.(S).

3. Exact position of minefield and method of approach will be discussed at Admiralty with Commander D.20 and C.O. of Submarine and you will be kept informed of proposals.

4. It is intended to sail destroyers to reach Scapa on 22/1.

5. Request you will take charge of the operation.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1411/11).

12.1.1941.
SUNDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Faroes - Iceland Minefield. — Your 1739/11. Concur in gap being left but I would prefer it arranged if depth of water permits so that a leading line can be obtained from Myggenaes (Faroes Islands) wireless beacon.
(C.in C. H.F. 1937/12 to Admty).

M/L Operation near Fro Havet. — Admty 1411/11. SEALION detailed and will be ready to leave Blyth 21/1. Passage to position will take five days.
(V.A.S. 1044/12).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.1.1941.
SUNDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

CACHALOT to lay Minefield near Kolbeinsflu Buoy.

Admty. 1410/11. Concur with para.3. (V.A.S. 1046/12).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Thailand Indo-China tension.

Current development of tension and fighting on frontier between Thailand and Indo-China is likely to create conditions in which Japanese would easily find pretext for militar intervention in Thailand.

Should the Japanese move military forces into Thailand we should have either to accept as fait accompli a strategical development which would entail the most serious consequences for us or issue ultimatum to Japan which might result in war.

Consequence of former course would be that throughout Malaya readiness for war would have to be reduced from 5 days to perhaps 24 hours and readiness in Burma would also have to be reduced. Among other things would entail permanent mobilisation of volunteer forces in Malaya. In addition our need for land and air reinforcements would become most urgent.

I consider it most important that Japan should be convinced that move of military forces into Thailand would be met by ultimatum from us. This impression can more easily be conveyed to Japan indirectly from London than from here. From here we could supplement what is done from London. This unofficial action would not repeat not of course commit H.M.G. to issuing the ultimatum when the situation arose should they judge it undesirable.
C.in C. China agrees.
(C.in C. Far East, 0427/12 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.1.1941.
MONDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Air Operations, Assab, Massowa, Kismayu.

Reference 1726/3, and 1538/9 from Admiralty. Plant of cucumbers (1) Assab unprofitable judging by lack of movement so far at this port.

(ii) Massowa impracticable with shore based Swordfish.

(iii) Kismayu practicable if supporting aircraft are available and should be sown. Fouling harbour before "Canvas" is definite objection as occupying force relies on immediate sea borne supplies and sweeping facilities very limited. Await M.E. view on this. Intend however to take opportunity to ship Aden flight and remaining 16 cucumbers about 17/1 to Mombasa. A.O.C. Aden and A.O.C. in C.M.E. informed.

(iv) Improvement to Mombasa sweeping facilities under investigation.
(C.in C. E.I. 1222Z/13 to Admty).

14.1.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Iceland - Faroes Minefield.

Gap proposed in R.A.M.L. 1601/13 is considered to be too far to the southward. The gap proposed by Admiralty moved about 40 miles to the North Eastward would be best. But if depth of water or other conditions prevent this the gap proposed in Admiralty message 1330/13 is preferred.
(C.H.F. 1101/14 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

14.1.1941.
TUESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

HERMES, Operational flying endurance.

Admty. 1917/24/11/40. para 5A sub para.5B and my 1149/1/1. After 6 weeks of anti-raider patrol work HERMES reports he is able to operate for a period of 6 weeks only when carrying out scale of flying considered necessary for efficient search on this duty before a period of 10 days in harbour is required, to make ship ready for a further 6 weeks of similar service. Without this period in harbour with facilities of a complete maintenance unit a less degree of efficiency of search must be accepted. I consider that this would probably have to be accepted except when there was very strong evidence that a raider was in the vicinity. HERMES operational flying endurance is as follows.
(C.in C. S.A. 1809/N/14 to C.in C. E.I.)

15.1.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation PARCEL.

H.M.S. KING GEORGE V sailed for operation PARCEL routed through (a) 062° 00'N., 015° 00'W. (b) 062° 00'N., 025° 00'W. 042° 45'N., 050° 00'W. E.T.A. at entrance to Chesapeake Bay 0700R/24.

(ii) Ship has been ordered to return to Scapa by reverse route, after fuelling at Annapolis.
(C.in C. H.F. 1700/15 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

15.1.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

SUNFISH. Although operation RUBBLE has not yet taken place I intend to sail SUNFISH on about 22/1 for a patrol in Skagerrak. Restrictions on attacking Westbound merchant ships will be imposed except in Skagerrak to North of 058° 20'N.
(V.A.S. 2232/15 to C.in C. H.F.)

Mining.

Iceland - Faroes Minefield. A.M. 1626/14. A. The lapping of the two double intensity fields comprising the southern part would entail narrowing the Gap by a number of miles, as the Northern of these two fields would run approx. to position "L".

B. The intensity of these two fields would be considerably less than 80 units per mile.

C. Alternatively these two fields could be butted, but in this case the necessary gap for safety would have to be left between them.

D. The water in Northern part of the southern position would have to be sounded previously by surveying ship.

Proposals in my 1603/14 are therefore preferred. Reference para. 4 of a.m. supply of mines could probably be adjusted. Position "L" is given in my 1153.
(R.A.M.L. 1152/15).

My 1152 position L 062° 58'N., 008° 40'W.
(R.A.M.L. 1153/15).

Admiralty 1626/14 and R.A.M.L. 1603/14.
The gap proposed by Admiralty is in the better position but may result in decreased efficiency due to laying in deeper water.
The gap proposed by R.A.M.L. is therefore preferred.
(C.in C. H.F. 1211/15 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.1.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy U.S.8.

(i) Convoy U.S.8. leaves Colombo at 0530Z/16 speed 13 knots. ANTENOR and CAPETOWN are to slip at 0215Z and 0345Z respectively and are to proceed to patrol to seaward searched channel until convoy is formed up.

(ii) CAPETOWN is to escort convoy to 012° N, 045° E. and is then to proceed to Aden. CAPETOWN will then join Red Sea Force temporarily.

(iii) ANTENOR is to escort convoy to 050° E. and is then to proceed to Bombay at 15 knots.

(iv) CANBERRA is to leave Colombo at 0730Z/16 and is to proceed to give close cover to southward convoy till convoy reaches 070° E. and is then to return to Colombo adjusting speed to arrive p.m./19. (C.in C. E.I. 1038Z/15).

16.1.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Escort for U.S.9.

Your 1141/9. There will be 2 troop movements in addition to U.S.9 requiring escort in eastern half of my Station in the Middle of February besides a B.N.Convoy running concurrently. LEANDER is only suitable escort for U.S.9 and if she is employed as escort the main trade route in Eastern half of my Station must go unprotected for the time being. Request reconsideration. CANBERRA escorting U.S.9 to Colombo. The position will however be reviewed again near the time.
(C.in C. East Indies 1452Z/16 for A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.1.1941.
FRIDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Convoys W.S.5.B. S.L.S.63. S.L.63. A/S Escorts.

My 2059/15. F.O.C.N.A. reports that FEARLESS, FORESIGHT and escorted transports cannot join W.S.5.B. until after arrival Freetown. A/S escort for W.S.5.B. due Freetown a.m./24 will therefore be two corvettes from a.m./30/1 plus VIDETTE from 0600/21 and VELOX from 0600/2/1. No other A/S forces available. 3 trawlers escort S.L.S.63 sailing 19/1 MILFORD and two corvettes S.L.63 on 20/1.
(C.in C. S.A. 1201N/17).

South Atlantic.

FURIOUS NEPTUNE Route.

Your 1815N/15 not to all addressees. Route for FURIOUS and NEPTUNE is to be amended so as to pass West of San Miguel to a new position E which should be West of 25° W.

2. FURIOUS and NEPTUNE are to proceed to the Clyde.

3. C.in C. W.A. is requested to arrange A/S escort and onward routeing from new position E.

4. Further signal with regard to NEPTUNE's movements will follow.

5. FURIOUS may be required to repeat Operation MONSOON.
(D.O.D.(H) 1729/17 to C.in C. S.A.)

DORSETSHIRE.

After providing cover for the group of Merchant ships mentioned in your 0935N/8, DORSETSHIRE should proceed to Freetown so as to be available to leave on 3/1 to meet an important convoy from the North.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1749/17 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

17.1.1941.
FRIDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

KENYA, SOBIESKI.

Admty. 2201/16. Request you sail transports KENYA and ROBIESKI to U.K. escorted by DUNEDIN as soon as ready. It is assumed that DELHI will remain in Freetown area until relieved by DRAGON.

2. It is at your discretion to route them via Gibraltar should you consider this necessary on account of DUNEDIN's endurance.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1750/17 to C.in C. S.A.)

Convoy W.S.5.B.

Your 1201N/17. Convoy W.S.5.B. may be diverted so as to allow transports and 2 escorting destroyers from Gibraltar to R/V.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1811/17 to C.in C. S.A.)

East Indies.

FORMIDABLE to replace ILLUSTRIOUS.

Admty's.1910/12 paragraph four.
(1) Consider most suitable escort through Red Sea to Suez is destroyer and at high speed, two sufficient, FORMIDABLE providing own protection.

(ii) Unless FORMIDABLE arrives vicinity of Aden before 2/2 no destroyer will be available from Red Sea Force in view of their being required for passage of W.S.5.A. and B.N.14.

(iii) Request C.in C. Med. will consider providing two destroyers if FORMIDABLE is later than above date.

(iv) Request C.in C. S.A. will signal FORMIDABLE's onward programme from Cape as soon as possible.
(C.in C. E.Indies. 0746Z/17 to Admty.)

China.

Threat to Johore, proposed mining.

C.in C. Far East is anxious concerning possible enemy landing East Coast Johore. I consider it desirable preferably now but certainly if situation deteriorates that a dangerous area be declared boundary proposed as follows. From position A 001° 50'N., 104° 20'E. to Eastern points (? TINGI) and Siribuat thence to Asses Ears Pulo Tidman thence to A. Whole area could not be mined but laying of small numbers and above declaration would be useful deterrent.
(C.in C. China, 0801Z/17 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

18.1.1941.
SATURDAY.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Aircraft Minelaying in Belts and Sound suggested.

Suggested that the ice conditions in the Baltic at the present time, when the Belts and the Sound may be open only to larger vessels, favour minelaying operations by aircraft in these areas and possibly in the shallow water east of the Skaw since sweeping would be much hampered.

A further suggestion in view of our limited minelaying resources would be to drop a few dummies, or concrete blocks from aircraft not fitted for minelaying in the hope that these operations would be detected possibly by the discovery of detachable parachutes, and traffic suspended and sweeping continued over a period in the expectation of exploding them.

This suggestion is prompted by experience of the nuisance value of suspected unexploded mines in our own channels, particularly when interspersed with mines that have exploded on sweeping.
(C.in C. H.F. 1632/16 to Admty).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Protection of Red Sea Convoys.

Admty's. 1406/10.

(i) Considers there is very small risk of attack to unescorted ships north of about 019 N., But South of 019 N., the risk is expected to become considerable as soon as absence of escort is discovered, since ships must pass close to enemy base and cannot help being found. Possibility of German stiffening cannot be ignored. I cannot therefore recommend unescorted sailings in Southern Red Sea, but a reduced escort for other than large personnel convoys can be accepted.

(ii) In order to increase flow and speed up turn round of shipping, intend to introduce following Red Sea Convoys programme beginning about first of February.

(a) R.N. (8 knots) Convoy to leave Aden every four days. B.N.F. (11 knots and over). Convoy is to leave Aden every six days.

/(b)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Protection of Red Sea Convoys. (Contd.)

(b) B.S. and B.S.F. Convoy will leave Suez at same interval.

(c) Convoy will be escorted south of about 019 N., where B.N.Convoys will be dispersed. B.S.Convoys will sail from Suez unescorted, and will meet escort off Port Sudan. Port Sudan ships will leave or join convoy as necessary.

(d) W.S. and U.S.Convoy will be included in B.N.F. cycle and not run additional thereto. If number of ships in W.A. or U.S.Convoy is too large or speeds are unsuitable to allow B.N.F. ships to join up, the latter will sail with B.N. Convoy as necessary. Large troop Convoys will be escorted to Suez.

(iii) Use of Port Sudan as transhipment port. Enquiries are being made as to how much more shipping can be handled there. (C.in C. E.I. 1316Z/18 to Admty).

Transport of Troops.

Your 2223/13 to D. of S.T. only. Cannot agree to use of ships of S.W.4.B. as they are urgently required in United Kingdom for W.S.7.

2. No other opportunity appears open for movement of personnel plus M.T. Durban to Mombasa except for such shipping as can be made available by P.S.T.O. India and P.S.T.O. Egypt, who are requested to report. (D. of S.T. 2246/18 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.1.1941.
SUNDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

R/C of Oran.

Your 1859/9. Photographs taken 1200/19.

(a) Mers-El-Kebir. 2 ships sunk and completely submerged. DUNKERQUE in original position surrounded by nets. (b) Oran. Believe no warships. One large one small floating dock.

(c) Aerodrome. No activity.

(d) Further details after enlargements. (S.O.Force H. 2119/19 to Admty).

Mediterranean.

ARK ROYAL Bombs.

Your 1620/18 no confirmation can be given ARK ROYAL since result of attacks not always observed. Prisoners appear to be impressed by percentage of failures and if their evidence, which appears to be reliable, is accepted failures are not restricted to delayed action bombs. No drilling or material failure can be suggested. (S.O.Force H, 0924/19 to Admty).

East Indies.

Attack on Kismayu.

Your 1924/Z/18. It is most important to prevent petrol entering Italian Somaliland. Your 1222/13 Cucumbers are to be sown as soon as possible at Kismayu the disadvantage of fouling the harbour must be accepted. A few days delay in the arrival of FORMIDABLE at Alexandria will be accepted so as to enable you to use FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK for offensive operations against Kismayu and any other suitable harbours where petrol could be landed. FORMIDABLE has no cucumbers on board and there are not yet any in Cape ports. If you consider it desirable opportunity of FORMIDABLE passing through the Red Sea may be taken to attack Italian destroyers and submarines at Massawa.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1320/19 to C.in C. E.I.)

Note. See Amendment 1522/22.

MOST SECRET.

20.1.1941.
MONDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Oran
DUNKERQUE.

My 2119/19 para. (a) only one sunk ship visible.

(ii) DUNKERQUE has no appreciable list or trim and appears aground with stem in, (position) 3 rows of net protect her.
(S.O. Force H. 1407/20).

Submarines at Oran.

My 2119/19 para. (b). Enlargement shows one destroyer and possibly one or two submarines at Oran.
(S.O. Force H. 1815/20).

North Atlantic.

A.A. Defence Malta and Gibraltar.

Admty. 1756/18. If H.M.Govt. considers need for this equipment at Malta to be more pressing than at Gibraltar Authorities (Military) here agree release.

(ii) While I consider A.A. Defence Gibraltar far from adequate and therefore deprecate any tendency to diminish it, I agree Malta should have prior claim especially these weapons which arrived Gibraltar in September have not yet been mounted and I understand military have no personnel to operate them. Request replacement and necessary personnel may be sent as soon as possible.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1501/20).

South Atlantic.

Operation "Pageant", repeat of "Monsoon".

My 1729/17. para5. If this operations takes place, code word will be PAGEANT.
(D.O.D.(H) 1608/20 to C.in C. S.A. W.A.)

SOUTHERN EMPRESS, SVEND FOYN.

British whale factory ships SOUTHERN EMPRESS and SVEND FOYN were believed to be near of 63° S., and 40° W. on 18/1. It is anticipated that these ships will be leaving South Georgia with the complete catch of whale oil about the middle of March.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1626/20 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

20.1.1941.
MONDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

NEWCASTLE's Aircraft.

0212/20 from N.S.O.(I) Montevideo. If it will help to secure aircraft's release Uruguayan Foreign Minister may be informed that it came from NEWCASTLE.

2. Understand NEWCASTLE will shortly be appearing again off the Plate. If Uruguayan Authorities release aircraft N.A. should, if possible, arrange with R.A.S.A.D. for its return to NEWCASTLE.

3. If knowledge of NEWCASTLE's expected presence off the Plate is likely to increase chances of aircraft being released, the fact may be disclosed to Foreign Minister for his personal information. Any disadvantages in making this disclosure must be accepted in view of the importance of NEWCASTLE recovering her aircraft.
(V.C.N.S. 2227/20 to N.A. Buenos Aires).

Mediterranean.

Re W.S. Convoys - Whether shipping can be made available for onward conveyance of troops from Durban.

Your 2246/18, and 2247/18. No vessels at my disposal.
(S.S.T.O. Egypt 1845/20 to D. of S.T.)

East Indies.

Attack on Kismayu.

Admty. 1320/19. Officer from Kilindini with all lat st intelligence photographs etc. of Kismayu and other ports in Italian Somaliland will be sent as soon as possible to Durban and if necessary on to Simonstown. Date of arrival will be signalled. Surprise and secrecy are important and therefore undesirable ships should call at Mombasa beforehand.
(C.in C. E.I. 0548Z/20 to S.O. Force K).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.1.1941.
MONDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Transport of Troops.

Your 2246/18. In view of U.S.9 requirements and Indian commitments cannot spare any personnel or M.T.ships for this move. (S.S.T.O. Bombay 0835Z/20).

W.S.5.B. HIGHLAND PRINCESS, HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN. (to fetch Meat).

Your 2247/18. No suitable ship can be sent from India. Suggest that CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS now in U.S.8 due Suez 28th from West would be suitable to replace HIGHLAND PRINCESS but it is doubtful if she could arrive Durban before 12/2. Suggest NIEUW HOLLAND now at Durban be used to replace HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN. As this ship can only accommodate 1000 the remaining 100 could be embarked in next African Bombay mail. No other ships of U.S.8 can be spared as they are required for U.S.9.
(S.S.T.O. Bombay 1317Z/20 to D. of S.T.)

21.1.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation RUBBLE.

Operational restrictions which are becoming increasingly favourable to the enemy are imposed on R.N. units while there is a reasonable chance of RUBBLE sailing.

2. There is definite possibility of promising weather within four days.

3. In view of para.1 please state your definite opinion whether ships will sail.
(D.N.I. 1844/21 to N.A. Stockholm).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.1.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Your 1844/21. Definite opinion may be expected 22/1. See my 1117/21 sent through P.O. as N.65.
(N.A.Stockholm 2233/21 to Admty).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Attitude towards Vichy French Ships.

Your 1713/11. Condition that overwhelmingly superior force must be available before escorted convoy is interfered with or attempt to regain possession of captured ships is resisted, was inserted with intention of avoiding so far as possible having to engage French warships. Equality of forces or even slight British superiority would not necessarily deter French from beginning action and whatever the result of such an engagement, very grave difficulties would be created with Vichy Gov. I appreciate that handing over of French ships to French force in conditions referred to in your para.3 might, if facts become public, adversely affect our prestige, but this must be accepted in view of overriding need to avoid if possible hostilities with Vichy forces. Instructions in para. 3(b) of my 1407/10 must therefore be adhered to. If however British warships escorting captured French merchant ships are attacked without any demand for release of ships being made, attack should be resisted, action being broken off as required if opposing force is clearly superior. Otherwise demand for release of ships must be complied with unless British force has overwhelming superiority.
(1st Lord 2153/21 to C.in C. S.A.)

North Atlantic.

Convoy W.S.5.B.

Your 1610/20. Not clear. Report (a) name of destroyer now with the troop transports.

(b) P.C. and S. of transports if still in company, if not at time when you parted company.

(c) C.in C. S.A. has been requested to signal onward routeing instructions from position 028° 40' N., 020° 10'W. to FEARLESS.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1208/21 to Capt: D.(8).

MOST SECRET.

21.1.1941.
TUESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Attack on Kismayu.

Admty. 1320/19. Is it desired that ships now at Kismayu should not be sunk.
If left floating there is a slender chance of some being serviceable if and when "Canvas" takes place but plans for scuttling etc. are certain to have been made.
If sunk, we know there they are and they may take some valuable stores down with them.
Latter course is recommended. Ship targets would be selected as far as possible in addition to harbour facilities.
(C.in C. E.I. 0542Z/21 to Admty).

Your 1320/19. FORMIDABLE has 5 cucumbers on board.
(S.O. Force K, 1024Z/21 to Admty).

My 0548/20 (i) Officer cannot arrive at Durban before 27/1.

(ii) Request Force "K" sail from Simonstown so as to arrive at Durban 27/1 provided that convoy W.S.5.A. has departed.
(C.in C. E.I. 1230Z/21 to S.O. Force K).

22.1.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Force Z.

1. Force 'Z' comprising GLENGYLE, GLENROY and GLENEARN, will be ready to sail from Clyde p.m./31 to Suez via the Cape, calling at Freetown and the Cape. (S.O. of Force, GLENGYLE). Speed of ships, 18 knots. Speed of advance to Position Q, 16 knots.

2. Ocean Escort.

/(A)

MOST SECRET.

22.1.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

(a) KENYA from Clyde to R/V "Q" in position 35° 40'N., 22° 40'W.

(b) DORSETSHIRE from R/V "Q" to the Cape.

(c) GLASGOW from the Cape to Suez.
After meeting DORSETSHIRE, KENYA will return direct to Plymouth. C.in C. W.A. is requested to sail KENYA accordingly.

3. A/S Escort.

C.in C. W.A. is requested to arrange A/S escort using destroyers of the 5th D/F who will be required to meet FURIOUS and NEPTUNE at R/V "K" and escort FURIOUS to Clyde.

4. Route.

C.in C. W.A. is requested to:-

(a) Sail convoy arranging route to R/V "Q".
(b) Arrange position and time of R/V "K".
(c) Arrange air protection.

5. Onward Route. from R/V "Q" to be arranged by Cs. in C. concerned.

6. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail FURIOUS and NEPTUNE as requisite to meet A/S escort at R/V "K".
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1635/22 to C.in C. W.A. S.A. E.I. F.O.C.N.A.)
Amended by D.O.D.(H) 1701/25.

Operations.

Operation RUBBLE.

(One) Prospects of evasion definitely hopeful for passage within next 2 or 3 days.
(two) Coastal ice conditions somewhat improved and freshening southerly wind may break up pack ice permitting departure.

(3) General prospects for operation definitely improving.

(4) Further report follows, shortly.
(N.A. Stockholm 1545/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 22.1.1941. WEDNESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Operation RUBBLE. (Contd.)

My 1545/22.

1. Further report from Gothenburg indicates ice conditions becoming favourable and fair prospects of sailing p.m./23 or following afternoon.

2. Expect further telegram a.m./23. (N.A. Stockholm. 1822/22 to Admty).

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy T.C.9. (Canadian Troops.)

Your 1330/22 and my 1105/22. Consider five destroyers will be required to screen T.C.9. (ii) These cannot be provided without using some of these from W.S.six. To allow margin for delay of W.S. Six and bad weather consider T.C. Nine cannot be met before 14/2 at the earliest. (C.in C. W.A. 1631/22 to Admty).

Convoy W.S.6.

In order to provide adequate A/S escort for convoy W.S.6, six destroyers are required to reinforce those from Western Approaches. Can you provide these from destroyers working up at Scapa. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2207/22 to C.in C. H.F.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Troop Convoy Escorts, NORFOLK & AUSTRALIA to return to U.K.

Admty. 1642/6 para. C. and D., (See Home Commands, Shipping 6/1).

A. As the central Mediterranean situation does not now allow of cruiser escorts returning home through the Mediterranean, in order to maintain essential strength in Home Waters it is necessary to re-adjust the cruiser escort policy.

B. A single cruiser escort must now be accepted South of Freetown.

/C.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Troop Convoy Escorts, NORFOLK & AUSTRALIA to return to U.K. (Contd.)

C. As a first step to implement this, the following action is to be taken:-

(a) HAWKINS is to leave W.S.5.A. and proceed to Simonstown to take over escort of FORMIDABLE, W.S.5.A. being escorted to Suez by SHROPSHIRE only.

(b) Flag of F.O. Force "K" is to be transferred to NORFOLK at Simonstown, and Rear-Admiral Wake-Walker will then become C.S.1 and is to return to U.K. in NORFOLK forthwith.

(c) On arrival at Aden, HAWKINS is then to relieve AUSTRALIA escorting W.S.5.B. AUSTRALIA then to return to U.K.
(D.O.D.(F) 0300/22 to C.in C's S.A. and E.I. F.O. Force K).

Attack on Kismayu.

My 0300/22. para. (c) sub-para (a).
Amend my 1320/19 to read HAWKINS for NORFOLK.
(D.O.D.(F) 1522/22 to C.in C. E.I).

W.S.5.B. fuelling.

Admty. 1154/11. In order to minimise stay of convoy in South African ports and to ensure all ships have sufficient range to reach next ports of call without replenishment en route propose following ten ships call Durban only to bunker and water. Remainder of convoy to bunker and water at Capetown only. Request you will arrange accordingly.
(0303/22 to C.in C. S.A.)
(D.O.D.(F).

W.S.5.B. Freetown Arrangements.

Convoy W.S.5.B. Ships are to enter the harbour in following order. AUSTRALIA enter harbour before convoy and EMERALD after.
(C.in C. S.A. 0907N/22 to AUSTRALIA).

MOST SECRET.

22.1.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

W.S.6. Water.

My 2123/22 Part I. Your 2012/18. Ten thousand tons of water, required for W.S.6. BRITISH ZEAL will shortly be beached and cannot be used for water stowage. Maximum amount of water available for convoy will be 7000 tons when WESTFOLD is ready. Very important that Tanker be sent. Time to supply ten thousand tons water to Convoy with Tanker available five days, without Tanker six to seven days, and possibly longer if water is short.
(C.in C. S.A. 1923/22 to Admty).

East Indies.

Kismayu.

Your 0542/21. Concur. Sink the ships and inflict as much damage as possible on the harbour facilities.
(D.O.D.(F) 0302/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

Force K, Operation "Breach".

My 1230/21 both officers now due Durban late afternoon 24/1 or early 25/1, by R.A.F. aircraft. Request arrangements be made to fly them on to Simonstown without delay. Force "K" would then proceed direct from Simonstown for operation BREACH without calling at Durban. It is assumed that HAWKINS could reach Aden without refuelling but Mombasa after operation is available if necessary.
(C.in C. E.I. 1134Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Operation BREACH.

1. Ultimate object. Denial to enemy of port as a base for reception and distribution of supplies by sea. Your immediate object is destruction of shipping and harbour facilities and mining of approaches.

2. Following points for your consideration when making plans:- (a) Bombardment of defences or ships by cruisers at extreme range which alone is practicable may prejudice surprise and inflict little damage. It might however distract from air attack if accurate timing is possible.

/(b)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Operation BREACH. (Contd.)

(b) Depth of water in conjuction with air torpedo attack.

(c) Planting of cucumbers simultaneously with main air attack.

(d) Dusk attack followed by dawn next morning.

3. Priority of air target. (X) Shipping (selected order will be signalled later) (Y) Lighters, godowns, piers etc. (3) Oil fuel tanks.

4. It is very important cucumbers should be planted and best place is area around position 152°5 cables flash light buoy. (Admty Chart 860).

5. Signal outlines of plan in due course. (C.in C. E.I. 1830Z/22 to S.O. Force K).

America and West Indies.

TAMERLANE. Norwegian ship left New York 1300 G.M.T. 22/1 with 120 aeroplanes for Takoradi. (Route) Due Takoradi 1100 G.M.T./6/2. (N.C.S.O. New York 1048/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.1.1941.
THURSDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy T.C.9. (Canadian Troops).

1. Composition.

Convoy will be composed of DUCHESS OF YORK, ORONTES, WARWICK CASTLE, DEMPO, JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELDE.

2. Movements.

A. R.A. 3rd B.S. sail convoy so as to pass through position A(60° 30'N., 22° 00'W.) at noon G.M.T./16/2.,approach course to be 090°.

B. Admty. will adjust position A if necessary for purposes of routeing and will issue onward route to the Clyde.

3. Escorts.

A. Ocean escort RAMILLIES.

B. RAMILLIES is to leave convoy at dark on 13/2 returning to Halifax.

C. C.in C. W.A. provide A/S escort from position A and arrange A/A protection.

4. Communications.

A. After parting company RAMILLIES is to report to C.in C. W.A. the time at which the convoy will pass position A.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1635/23 to R.A.3.B.S.)

North Atlantic.

FURIOUS, NEPTUNE, escort.

Admty. 1655/22. Anticipate it will probably be necessary to sail FURIOUS and NEPTUNE about 31/1. Owing to expected absence of Force H from Gibraltar at this time there will be no A/S escort available for FURIOUS unless VELOX and VIDETTE can arrive at Gibraltar, in time to carry out this duty.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1838/23 to Admty).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Your 1838/23. VELOX and VIDETTE required for inward escort W.S.5.B. see my 1201/17 and then for escort to "SHRAPNNEL" my 1027/18. FAULKNOR and FORESTER required for escort of W.S.5.B. on leaving Freetown 28/1. Regret not possible to sail VELOX, VIDETTE to arrive Gibraltar by 31/1. (C.in C. S.A. 1947N/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

East Indies.

W.S.5.A. SHROPSHIRE and CERES to escort.

SHROPSHIRE is to escort Convoy W.S.5.A. from Durban to Suez. CERES is to escort to about 008° S., whence she is to be detached with ORBITA and NIEUW HOLLAND for Mombasa.

(ii) Route.

(iii) The passage between position 011° 50'N. 052° E., and 012° 30'N., 051° 30'E is to be made in the dark hours. The passage of the Straits of Perim is to be made in dark hours and as soon after sunset as possible. (C.in C. E.I. 0816/23).

Force K.

Your 1109/18. Estimate Force K will reach Aden about 8th February but I will confirm or correct this as soon as I know programme. (C.in C. E.I. 1844Z/23, to C.in C. Med.)

China.

N.E.I. Navy, Policy if Japan attacks.

N.L.O. Batavia has sent following report of interview with Admiral Helfrich on 18/1. (Begins) The Admiral spoke of the present lack of pre-arranged action to be taken in the event of (a) an attack by Japan on the Malay Peninsula and Singapore (b) an attack by Japan on Java or any other part of the N.E.I. Without a reciprocal agreement between the two Govts., made in advance that each would automatically be at war in the event of (a) or (b), he would be unable to assist with the N.E.I. Fleet for considerab time after (a) had taken place. At the moment it was not agreed that either Govnt.,

/would

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

N.E.I. Navy, Policy if Japan Attacks. (Contd.)

would, without a decision from London being made after hostilities had broken out assist the other 2. The initial assistance, should (a) occur, would be for the N.E.I. Submarines to operate in the South China Sea but he could not possibly arrange this in time to be effective if there was delay in deciding the question until after war had broken out. Should (b) take place he anticipated that Air Force support would be available from Malaya. 3. He said that his position was in some respects difficult for he was C.in C. of the Netherland Fleet in N.E.I. Waters and responsible to the G.G. here. He was not responsible in any way to Admiral Furstner who commanded the Netherland Navy in European Waters, although a line of communication existed between himself and Admiral Furstner.
(C.in C. China, 0235Z/23 to Admty).
Note:

America and West Indies.

Convoy T.C.9. Accommodation etc.

Your 1242/13, 1356/15 and 1201/16.

7. Owners of all ships have been requested to store for six weeks for full complement of passengers and three months for crew.

8. All vessels should be bunkered to capacity before leaving Halifax.

9. In view of necessity for maintaining sailing date of 7/2, only additional ships which could be made available are DEMPO and JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELDE. Admiralty 1852/9 and 1804/4 refer.

10. Most desirable that these vessels should complete arming etc. and leave Halifax by this date in any case as they have to be fitted after arrival in U.K. and completed by end February.

11. Request report.
(D.S.T. 1201/23 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
FRIDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

KENYA, SOBIESKI. — My 1721/18 and Admty. 1750/17. Intend sailing KENYA and SOBIESKI escorted by DUNEDIN for Gibraltar p.m./26 by following route (A) 10 degs. N., 17 degs. W. (b) 14 degs. 40'N., 19 degs. 50'W. (c) 29 degs. 30'N., 21 degs. 00'W. (d) 33 degs. 45'N., 11 degs. 20'W. To arrive Gibraltar 4/2. A/S escort until 30/1 VELOX, VIDETTE who will then proceed to Bathurst to fuel and boiler clean. Thence to Gibraltar. F.O.C. N.A. provide A/S escort for approach to Gibraltar.
(C.in C. S.A. 1415/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)
See Amendment 2047/25.

Senegalese Brigade movement. — Your 1615/21/12 French Military Authorities in London state that French Senegalese Brigade totalling some 1100 personnel is now mobilised at Pointe Noire. Propose they be embarked at Freetown for passage to Port Sudan in W.S.6. in EMPIRE TROOPER due to sail from Gibraltar 10/2. 900 British West African Troops from Lagos and Takoradi are also to embark in EMPIRE TROOPER at Freetown for passage to Durban where onward conveyance to Mombasa will be arranged. Equipment of French Brigade understood to total 91 vehicles and 100 tons stores and propose that these be shipped from Pointe Noire to Port Sudan in FORT BINGER.
(D.S.T. 2003/24 to C.in C. S.A.)

East Indies.

Meat Ships, release. — Ref: D. of S.T. 2247/18 and 0202/24. The release of HIGHLAND PRINCESS and HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN for carrying meat to U.K. is a matter of extreme urgency. If shipping cannot be provided for onward conveyance of troops, consideration will have to be given to disembarking them to Transit Camp at Durban. Request you will give the provision of Alternative shipping your personal attention.
(D.T.D. 2004/24 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
FRIDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Establishment of Aircraft.

Your 0816/24/12.

A. Para.2. Not intended to provide more than 4 squadrons. Preparation of Rangoon as a main base does not therefore arise, but it is under consideration to make it an advanced base.

B. Para.3. This cannot be guaranteed but there will probably be one land G.R. Squadron at Calcutta and one at Trincomalee.
Attack on trade on the Eastern side of the Bay of Bengal by German raiders is not considered very probable.

C. Para.4. Following summaries intended programme of air reconnaissance:- 2 F/B Squadrons Ceylon, 1 F/B Squadron Mombasa, 1 F/B Squadron Durban, 1 G.R. land plane squadron Ceylon, 1 G.R. land plane squadron Calcutta. D. No. 205 Squadron at Singapore will be re-equipped with P.B.Y's during the next few months and will when re-equipped be available to operate from Ceylon against raiders, using the advanced bases now being prepared.
(Hd. of M. 2148/24 to C.in C. E.I.)

America and West Indies.

Convoy T.C.9.

My 1201/23, desirable that DEMPO and JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELDE be stored whilst at Halifax on basis of para.7 of my 1201/23.

(2) Request confirmation that this can be done but if not request you ask Sparks New York to arrange storing whilst in New York.

(3) To obviate necessity for docking (dry) DUCHESS OR YORK after return to U.K. request report whether she can be drydocked in Halifax.

(4) Request early report of (A) details of cargo loaded and (b) any defects requiring attention in U.K. of all vessels in T.C.9. in order that necessary preparatory steps can be taken in advance.
(D.S.T. 0200/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.

25.1.1941.
SATURDAY.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Cruisers for Home Fleet.

It is at present intended to reinforce the Home Fleet by a number of 8" Cruisers as they become available. Rear Admiral Wake-Walker has hoisted his flag in NORFOLK as F.O.C. 1st C.S. NORFOLK is returning to U.K. and is due to arrive about mid-February.

2. AUSTRALIA will return to U.K. round the Cape and should arrive about 20th March.

3. Other 8" Cruisers now in Dockyard hands are due to complete approximately on the dates shown, and it is hoped will join your Command forming part of 1st C.S.
SUFFOLK February, LONDON March, BERWICK March/April. (3 turrets).

4. DEVONSHIRE will arrive U.K. about mid-February for refit and should be ready for service early in May.

EXETER on completion of refit will work up at home and then proceed with a convoy to the Mediterranean.

5. Reference A.M. 0300/22 and A.M. 2335/21, paragraph one. One of these cruisers will return to U.K. from Freetown. The other will return as soon as she can be relieved.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1311/25 to C.in C. H.F.)

Movements.

BULLFINCH, (Cable Ship).

Your 1202/23 (not to all addressees) approved to route BULLFINCH by Eastern route. Ship is not repetition not to call St. Vincent for fuel but if necessary is to proceed Bathurst if she cannot make Freetown direct from Ponta Delgada. Ship is not repetition not to pass within twenty miles of French territory.
(D.A/S.W. 1815/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, ORMONDE, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA.

My 1154/11. There will also disembark at Freetown total of 38 other ranks from HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, ORMONDE and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA. These are A.A. Personnel and War Office request return passage to U.K. may be arranged as soon as possible.
(D. of S.T. 0221/25 to C.in C. S.A.
Amended 0223/26).

MOST SECRET.

25.1.1941.
SATURDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoy W.S.5.B.

Arrivals a.m./25 AUSTRALIA and EMERALD with convoy W.S.5.B. (less CAPETOWN CASTLE and MONARCH OF BERMUDA) and VELOX, VIDETTE, CALENDULA, ASPHODEL and CLEMATIS.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1257N/25).

COMMANDANT DUBOC.

A.T.1217 of 22/12. re sailing of COMMANDANT DUBOC and DOMINE for U.K. COMMANDANT DUBOC is required for duty in connection with escort duties from Pointe Noire to Port Sudan. Request you will hold her on your station for the present and inform S.N.O. Free French Forces at Pointe Noire accordingly.
(D.O.D.(F) 1748/25 to C.in C. S.A.)

Convoy W.S.6.

Your 1923/22. Tanker being sent from U.K. loaded with water.
(D.of S.T. 1916/25 to C.in C. S.A.)

KENYA SOBIESKI.

My 1415/24. Amend last sentence to read F.O.C.N.A. to provide A/S escort for onward passage from position 23 N., 20 30'W. where vees leave.
(C.in C. S.A. 2047/25).

East Indies.

Port Sudan, as Trans-shipment Port.

My 1316/3.

(i) Statistics for last three months indicate that Port Sudan was used to about half capacity on average but amount of shipping in port is irregular and port becomes congested for an appreciable time during unloading of personnel convoys.

(ii) From Naval point of view I see no objection to Port Sudan being used more as a transhipment port as it is not intended now to escort ships other than personnel ships North of Port Sudan. It is of course rather more exposed to air attack than canal area. The saving in turn round would be about six days.
(C.in C. E.I. 1144Z/25.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.1.1941.
SATURDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Convoys U.S.8. B.S.F.2.

Vessels of U.S.8 will be ready to leave Suez in B.S.F.2. about 10/2. They will carry prisoners of war ex Suez for Bombay except CHRISTIAN HUYGENS which proceeds Mombasa to land personnel and cargo thence to U.K. with about 250 service personnel ex Egypt. RAJULA will call at Aden to land R.A.F. vehicles and personnel.
(S.S.T.O. Egypt, 1215/25 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal.)

Mining Mogadishu, Mismayu.

1. Ungraded information has been received that the Italians are very anxious that Mogadishu should not be mined or the railway put out of action.

2. If you can arrange for early laying of Cucumbers at Kismayu by aircraft from Kenya it is for your consideration that FORMIDABLE Cucumbers should be laid at Mogadishu.

3. Suitable bombing targets at Mogadishu would appear to be the railway station and power station or the aerodrome close to the town.
(D. of P. 1946/25 to C.in C. E.I.)

Operation BREACH.

Your 1830/22.

(1) Plan. 2/2. First attack by torpedo aircraft a.m., escorted by fighters. Second attack, repeat torpedo attack or bombing of shore targets at 1630. Third attack at dusk, laying of five CUCUMBERS combined with diversion bombardment by HAWKINS.

(2) Essential HAWKINS fuels Mombasa on completion. Fuel required 2300 tons p.m./3/2

(3) Further attack Kismayu or Mogadishu could be carried out a.m./5/2, but latter place not recommended for sea attack by Staff Officers. E.T.A. Aden p.m./8/2.
(S.O.Force K, 2159Z/25 to C.in C. E.I).

MOST SECRET.

25.1.1941.
SATURDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Flying Boat Bases, Mombasa, Durban, Ceylon, etc.

Ref: Far East G.H.Q.1. 16/11 R.A.F. Middle East A.237/21/1, to Air Ministry only also refers. Agreed that permanent location for flying boat squadrons Indian Ocean are: one Mombasa, one Durban, two Ceylon. Cannot yet give firm indication when new squadrons will be available.

2. Establishment of advanced operational bases now agreed. Plan for each to operate three P.B.Y's for one month during which each aircraft will carry out twelve sorties.

3. Concur in provision of ship tender which you propose as part of advanced base organisation. Have your local enquiries produced any result? If not signal your detailed requirements to enable Admiralty to pursue matter.

5. Scheme for operation from certain of advanced bases below postulates squadron based temporarily in Ceylon and until a flying boat squadron is established there you should arrange for this.

6. Immediate action now required by you for preparation of following advanced bases in order of priority given:- Maldives, Seychelles, Chagos, Lindi, Nancowry, Mauritius.

Pending completion of permanent facilities Mombasa also to be prepared as advanced base.
(Air Ministry no T.O.O./25 to Eastfar, Singapore.)

America and West Indies.

Sailing from Annapolis 1430 G.M.T/25 to comply with Admty 1024/21 position B 1700 G.M.T. 2/2. If late for this R/V will pass through position 062 N., 021 10'W. at 0830 G.M.T./3/2. If available request Cruiser may R/V with KING GEORGE V at 1400/5/2 G.M.T. for throw off firing.
(KING GEORGE V 0121/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.1.1941.
SATURDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Halifax Escort, force and Northern Patrol.

Reference Admty 1011/11. I foresee some difficulty in arranging a smooth change over to new policy observing that escorts for H.X. B.H.X. and S.C. Convoys have all to be provided. Programme would be eased if B.H.X. 109 could sail without escort or alternatively if one could be provided from Force available at Bermuda.
(R.A.3.B.S. 1953/25).

26.1.1941.
SUNDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.105.

F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1902/24 and F.O.(s) 1941/25. Intended PORPOISE should return to U.K. after escorting H.X. 105. She should part company with the convoy before the local escort joins and proceed thereafter as directed by you.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2316/26 to F.O.(S).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

DUNEDIN escorting KENYA SOBIESKI.

Your 1415/24 not to DUNEDIN. GERANIUM and JONQUIL have been ordered to be in position 034° 10'N., 010° 12' W. at 1000Z1/3 to R/V with DUNEDIN.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1246/26 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
SUNDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoys W.S.5.A. B.N.F.2. U.S.8. S.U.I.

(1) W.S.5.A. is expected to pass Aden 9/2. Consequently B.N.F.2. will not leave Aden until 15/1/2. My 1226/21. para 2 refers.

(ii) In order to clear U.S.8. ships from Suez as soon as possible Convoy S.U.1 (U.S.8 ships) will leave Suez 9/2 to R/V in Red Sea with W.S.5.A. escort as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea. Convoy to be ?dispersed in Gulf of Aden and ships for Bombay to proceed there at best speed.
(C.in C. E.I. 1902Z/26 to S.N.O. Red Sea, S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).

27.1.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

S.S. CLAN FRASER.

S.S. CLAN FRASER, 16 knots, will be loaded by 7/2.

2. She should be sailed with convoy W.S.6 until A/S escort parts company, when she should proceed independently to Capetown.

3. Admty. will provide route to Capetown.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2232/27).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

KENYA, SOBIESKI.

Your 2047/25 your 1901/25 and your 1415/24 none to DUNEDIN. No. A/S escort available other than that specified in my 1246/26. Propose DUNEDIN and convoy proceed to Bathurst with VEES and thence to Gibraltar with VEESas A/S escort.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1220/27 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

27.1.1941.
MONDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Your 1220/27. Undesirable that transport should enter Bathurst. Do you see any objection to Transport DUNEDIN and destroyers being routed east of Canary Islands. If so VELOX could accompany throughout route VIDETTE probably having to return to fuel as in my 1415/24.
(C.in C. S.A. 1731N/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1731/27. Para.one, objection to routeing East of Canary Islands is the increased risk of detection and interception particularly for the ship of slow speed. As however you consider it undesirable for transports to enter Bathurst, I feel this risk must be accepted. VIDETTE to rejoin after fuelling if practicable.

Para. Two. Request expected time of arrival at position 032° 30'N., 010° 30'W to enable me to arrange additional A/S escort.

Para. Three. In view of the limited supply of water available and restricted berth accommodation it is most undesirable any ship should call at Gibraltar unless absolutely necessary.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2350/27 to C.in C. S.A.)

Resolution for U.K. JERSEY, JUPITER.

It is intended that RESOLUTION should leave Gibraltar for U.K. on completion of Force "H" impending operation, provided weather conditions appear favourable. This is expected to be about 7/2.

2. Escort from Gibraltar is to be provided by JERSEY, JUPITER and two Fleet Destroyers from Gibraltar. The two latter will be relieved at a mid-way point by two destroyers which C.in C. W.A. is to detail.

3. F.O.C.N.A. to signal estimated time of leaving Gibraltar and to confirm that RESOLUTION's maximum speed is 12 knots and endurance 3156 miles.
(1919/27 to F.O.C.N.A. C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

27.1.1941.
MONDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Transport of South African troops.

D. of S.T's 2246/18. As no shipping can be provided by Bombay or Egypt request I may be informed urgently if I am to reply to defence Department that D. of S.T. cannot supply shipping for this movement some troops can probably be sent by road but the majority must go by sea.
(S.N.O. Simonstown, 1121/27).

East Indies.

Convoy U.S.9.

Your 1222/26. Transhipment can be carried out at Bombay but owing to the very poor water facilities (?at) Bombay and having to water so many ships to full capacity at same time it will only be possible to supply the U.S.9 ships with sufficient water to reach Colombo where they would have to fill up before proceeding to Australia. Provided ferry ships arrive at Bombay 18/2 they will be ready for embarkation between 23 and 25 Feb: U.S.9 troops cannot be accommodated ashore at Bombay while awaiting onward passage.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 1232Z/27 to C.in C. E.I).

Convoy U.S.10.

Your 1137/16. Final figure of 32,000 in U.S.10 is not clear. From D. of S.T. 1242/8 para.3 and your 0713/18/11 it appears that figure should be about 22,000. Twenty on-carrying transports represents the maximum capacity of Colombo harbour taking into account the escorting cruisers and commercial traffic. The additional shipping required for on-carrying 32,000 men would raise very grave difficulties as regards berthing, fuelling etc. (3) It is pointed out that on-carrying transports from Trincomalee must subsequently berth in Colombo to replenish with fuel and water for which entirely, insufficient facilities exist at former port. (4) Moreover the date of arrival of U.S. convoys in Ceylon depends on the return there of the on-carrying transports used for previous convoy. It follows that a minimum interval of six weeks between convoys is necessary anyhow so long as returning ships have to carry Italian prisoners to Bombay.
(C.in C. E.I. 1326/27 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

27.1.1941.
MONDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Mogadishu. — Admty. 1946/25. 16 Cucumbers are due at Mombasa 28/1 from Aden. How soon the Swordfish flight will be ready to plant them I do not yet know, but the aircraft have to be uncased and erected and only three cucumbers can be planted at a time. Fighter protection for the 7th is I understand uncertain due to other commitments. Although I consider it is of greater importance that Kismayu should be blocked now than Mogadishu since there is little shelter from the North East monsoon at the latter place and unloading there (?) must at the best be difficult (? consider) FORMIDABLE should lay her cucumbers as already planned for D one day at Kismayu only if some of those arriving at Mombasa can be got ready in time for embarkation and laying at Mogadishu on D.4 day. Failing this FORMIDABLE's cucumbers will be laid at Mogadishu since this place is outside the range of Shore based Swordfish and fighters.
(C.in C. E.I. 1844Z/27 to Admty).

America and West Indies.

Convoy B.H.X.109. Escort. — Your 1953/25. Escort for B.H.X. 109 will be provided from force available at Bermuda.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1252/27 to F.O.C.3.B.S.)

28.1.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

PORPOISE. — Admty. 2316. Propose to direct PORPOISE to leave H.X.105 in parallel of 60° N., whatever the longitude, or at 2° W., if reached earlier, and thence to approach U.K. between 60° N., and 58° N., as far as 11° W. Thence to R/V with a suitable escort provided by C.in C. W.A. at daylight in a position to be ordered by C.in C. W.A. PORPOISE will be ordered to proceed submerged by day when East of 25° West and to report expected time of arrival at R/V 24 hours beforehand. Request your remarks.
(F.O.S. 1226/28 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.1.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

Your 1226/28 concur. Route concerned is through 60 N., 025 W. On parting company request PORPOISE may proceed through 059 00'N., 011 W. thence to R/V in 270 Barra. Head 10 miles. Request you arrange bombing restrictions.
(C.in C. W.A. 1855/28 to F.O.S.)

North Atlantic.

800 Squadron F.A.A.

Your 1231/19. Arguments for and against retention of No. 800 Squadron (F.A.A) appear to be as follows.

(2) For. (a) Fighter and Dive bomber strength in H.M.S. ARK ROYAL can be adjusted to suit operations.

(b) Skuas more suitable for Atlantic Operations.

(c) Additional personnel available to replace casualties.

(d) Some addition to defence of Gibraltar and control of straits.

(3) Against. (a) Proportion of stores must accompany transfer between shore and ships as insufficient stowage in latter. This tends to compromise secrecy of intended operations.

(b) Opportunity for obtaining operational co-operation at Gibraltar is limited.

(c) Alternative of rearming in U.K. with Grummen may be preferable.

(4) On the whole I favour retention at Gibraltar.

(5) F.O.C.N.A. is replying separately.
(S.O.Force H, 1412/28 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.1.1941.
TUESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DUNEDIN
VELOX
VIDETTE.

F.O.C.N.A's 2350/27 and my 1731/27 after position (b) convoy is to pass through position (h) 018 degs. 00'N., 019 degs. 42'W.
(j) 024 degs. 12'N., 016 degs. 58'W.
(k) 030 degs. 00'N., 011 degs. 50'W.
(l) 032 degs. 30'N., 010 degs. 30'W. Thence to Gibraltar. Speed 14 adjust to reach position (l) at 1400Z-1 2/2. VELOX is to remain with convoy for whole passage to Gibraltar. VIDETTE to remain in company if fuel will allow, important she should do so if possible otherwise proceed to Bathurst to fuel when required.
(C.in C. S.A. 1005N/28 to DUNEDIN).

East Indies.

Mogadiscio,
Kismayu.

1. Your 2159/25. Para. 1 approved but see my 1844/27 as regards Cucumbers.
Para.3. Concur that Mogadiscio offers few sea targets unless a ship happens to be there. Priority of shore targets is being obtained from A.O.C. Nairobi. Laying of Cucumbers should be your main object at Mogadiscio.

2. My 1948/27 (not to Admiralty) and my 1844/27. You must decide whether your own Cucumbers are laid at Kismayu or Mogadiscio. It depends on whether 6 of 12 embarked from Mombasa can be prepared in time.
The other 6 are intended for "Composition."

FORMIDABLE.

3. For sake of secrecy and to avoid slight chance of Air Attack whilst in harbour, it would be better if FORMIDABLE did not enter Mombasa. If necessary however these disadvantages may be accepted but stay in harbour is to be as brief as possible. Alternative is for HAWKINS to bring Cucumbers out to you for embarkation under lee of Pemba if necessary, disagree this would presumable cause postponement of operation against Mogadiscio until D. 5 days. A "C" class cruiser will probably be available to accompany you whilst HAWKINS is away.

4. Position for planting at Mogadiscio is between 5 and 10 fathom line each side of leading line (Admiralty Chart 671).
(C.in C. E.I., 0634Z/28 to S.O.Force K).

MOST SECRET.

28.1.1941.
TUESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

West Indies. (Contd.)

Troop Transport.

Your 2247/18 and subsequent signals.

(i) Propose ORBITA and DOMINION MONARCH be used for onward conveyance of troops from Durban. Anticipate both ships could arrive Durban by 11/2. DOMINION MONARCH leaving Suez in B.S.F. 1 (one) on 1/2.

(ii) CHRISTIAN HUYGENS can also sail from Suez with B.S.F. 1, but cannot arrive Durban before 14/2 even omitting call Mombasa. Consequently do not recommend this ship unless ORBITA or DOMINION MONARCH are not available, in which case propose CHRISTIAN HUYGENS replaces HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN and that sailing from Durban or Bombay and Singapore section of convoy is delayed accordingly.

(iii) No other ship on return India or South Africa.
(C.in C. E.I. 0710/28 to D. of S.T.)

Your 1232/26. My 1232/27. Between 19th and 22nd February the following convoys are expected to arrive and sail from Bombay. B.S.F.1., W.S.5.B. B.N.18., U.S.9. Owing to this large number of prisoners and troops which have to be handled during this period it is suggested if possible that the transhipment of U.S.9 be carried out at Colombo.
(S.O.(I.)E.I.N. 0706Z/28 to C.in C. E.I.)

CAPETOWN.

868. (i) CAPETOWN is to pass through position 000° 30'South 045° 20'East at 0300Z/3 and will then steer 230° at 15 knots.

(ii) S.O. Force K is to take CAPETOWN under his orders on 2/2. When no longer required by S.O. Force K CAPETOWN is to proceed to Mombasa. Provided not so much high speed is necessary CAPETOWN should not require to refuel until a.m./5/2.
(C.in C. E.I. 0810Z/28 to CAPETOWN.

MOST SECRET.

29.1.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

DUNEDIN, VELOX, KENYA, SOBIESKI.

C.in C. South Atlantic's 1005/28 and my 1232/29. After position 032° 30'N., 010° 38'W pass through position 034° 30'N., 010° 30'W., and adjust speed to arrive Northern entrance Gibraltar 0800 Zone minus one February 4th. (F.O.C.N.A. 1208/29 to DUNEDIN.)

DUNEDIN and VELOX escorting KENYA and SOBIESKI expect to pass through position 032° 30'N., 010° 30'W. at 1400Z-1/2 Feb: speed 11 knots. Detach GERANIUM and (? JONQUIL) as requisite to make this R/V. VIDETTE may also be in company with DUNEDIN. (F.O.C.N.A. 1232/29 to ROCHESTER.)

South Atlantic.

TAMERLANE, Route.

Admiralty's 1353/28 and my 1125/28. Route for TAMERLANE is to be amended as follows. From position of R/V in 004° 42'N., 031° 50'W pass through position 001 00'N., 020 00'W 001° 00'N., 005° 00'W., thence to Takoradi. Request you will inform ship. (C.in C. S.A. 1133N/29 to CARADOC).

TAMERLANE to have continuous escort.

C.in C. South Atlantic 1125/28 and C.in C. America and West Indies 1031/28.

(1) It is desired that TAMERLANE shall have the continuous escort of a cruiser of A.M.C. Request you will arrange for CARADOC to remain in company until relieved by BULOLO.

(2) If necessary it can be accepted that both CARADOC and TAMERLANE will have to proceed via Freetown. A/S escort is also desirable and FAULKNOR or FORESTER may be retained if necessary.

(3) Steps have been taken to prevent such a large number of aircraft again being embarked in one ship.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1326/29 to C.in C. S.A. C.in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

29.1.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

BULOLO,
CARADOC.

Admiralty 1326/29. Proceed maximum speed and endeavour to R/V with CARADOC at 0900 G.M.T. 1/2 in position 004° 50'N., 033° 00'W. (C.in C. S.A. 1723/N/29 to BULOLO).

Ref: 1326/29 from Admiralty and my 1723/29. Intend BULOLO and TAMERLANE proceed to Takoradi by route in my 1133/29. If CARADOC cannot continue to R/V and return to Trinidad she should accompany BULOLO and TAMERLANE until necessary to go direct to Freetown to fuel.
(C.in C. S.A. 1733N/29 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

W.S.5.B.

Sailing telegram.
(1) W.S.5.B. (2) 0745 G.M.T./29. (3) Capetown portion a.m./13/2. (4) Speed of advance to Capetown 13 knots thereafter 11 knots due to adverse current. (5) Route. (6) AUSTRALIA and EMERALD. (7) Seven columns 2333333. (8) (Standard Route).
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1857N/29 to Admty etc.)
Amendment of position (Y).
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1950/29).

TAMERLANE
A/S Escort.

Your 1326/29 and my 1733/29 anti-submarine escort can only be given to TAMERLANE by withdrawing F destroyer p.m./30 from escort of W.S.five B which sailed 0830/29.
(C.in C. S.A. 2117N/29 to Admty).

DELHI.

Admiralty's 1805/12/11/40 your 0847Z/18/11/40, and my 2026/19/11/40. (Renewal of boiler tubes). Anticipate DELHI will arrive Mauritius 28/2.
(C.in C. S.A. 2359/29 to C.in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

29.1.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

"Cucumbers" — My 0634/28 para 2 N.O.I.C. Kilindini reports Cucumbers clipped and that you will be able to prepare them.
(C.in C. E.I. 1322Z/29 to S.O.Force K).

Operation "Breach". — My 1830/22. para 3. Priority of targets on basis of estimated value to enemy. (My 0800/25 to S.O.Force K only refers). Order is only intended as a guide if practicable. Sink all you can is best course.
(C.in C. E.I. 1414Z/29 to S.O.Force K).

30.1.1941.
THURSDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.N.7. — Propose to carry out operation S.N.7. as follows.

A. Surface mine field south east to north west.
D. One. Four minelayers.
D. Two. Four destroyers as detailed by C.in C Home Fleet.
F. From 062 degs. 33'North 007 degs 48' West to 063 degs 17' North 008 degs 48' West.
G. When escort available.
J. Through positions (i) (?58 degs) 26'N., 005 degs 44'W. (ii) 060 degs 03' N., 008' 13'W (iii) 270 degs Mygganaes 7¼ approximately 33 hours after leaving port Z.A.
N. Through positions (i) 063 degs 02'N., 009 degs 40'W. (ii) 060 degs 00'N., 008 degs 33'W.
O. Port Z.A. Approximately 72 hours after sailing.
W. 52 miles 12 knots.
Z. A.F.O's Series One to two/40 Table Two (i) line three.
Admiralty pass in plain language to Air Ministry and H.Q. Coastal Command.
(R.A.M.L. 0021/30).

MOST SECRET.

30.1.1941.
THURSDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

DUNEDIN etc.

My 1232/29. For 1400 zone - one 2/2 read 1400 zone-one 3/2. My 1208/29 not to ROCHESTER. After position 032° 30'N., 010° 30'W. DUNEDIN pass through position 035° 15'N., 009° 00'W. and adjust speed to arrive Northern entrance Gibraltar 0800 Zone-one 5/2.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1056/30).

RESOLUTION endurance.

Your 1919/17 para. three. RESOLUTION reports endurance figures based on experience of passage from Freetown are as follows endurance at 10 knots allowing for zigzagging is 2925 miles. Endurance at 12 knots allowing for zigzagging is 2000 miles. Maximum speed with boiler power available is 13½ knots which would probably not endanger temporary repairs in fine weather. Low figures for endurance and speed are mainly due to foul bottom. Anticipate earliest date of sailing Friday 7/2 will confirm later.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1758/30 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

BULOLO, CARADOC, TAMERLANE.

My 1723/29. CARADOC with TAMERLANE reports longitude at 1800/29 050 degrees 15'West making good 14 knots. You should make contact as early as possible on 1/2. Then proceed by route given in my 1133/29. CARADOC reports cannot escort beyond 041° West
(C.in C. S.A. 1037/30 to BULOLO.)

Force Z Georgic.

Admiralty 1655/22/1 and C.in C. Western Approaches 1229/28/1 route from R/V Q.
(a) 019 degrees 20' North 026 degrees 52'W.,
(b) 014 degrees 20'N., 026 degrees 20'W
(c) 011 degrees 00'N., 018 degrees 28'W - Freetown.

Speed to be adjusted to reach outer end of Freetown searched channel 0730 zone + 1 February 11th. F.O.I.C. Greenock pass to S.O.Force Z.
(C.in C. S.A. 1131N/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

30.1.1941.
THURSDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

T.C.9. NORFOLK, DEVONSHIRE.

C.in C. S.A. is requested to sail NORFOLK and DEVONSHIRE to R/V with ROYAL SOVEREIGN and convoy T.C.9 at noon G.M.T. on 13th February in approx. position 60° N., 33° W. R.A. 3rd B.S. is requested to confirm R/V position and time. NORFOLK and DEVONSHIRE will escort convoy to U.K. through position "A" in 60° 30'N., 22° 00'W, where they will meet A/S escort. Further signal will be made giving destination of NORFOLK and DEVONSHIRE.
(D.O.D.(H) 1907/30 to C.in C. S.A. R.A.3.B.S.)

East Indies.

Kismayu Mogadishu.

Your 0408Z/30 to S.O. Force K only. Only by reduction of speed to 12 knots arriving Aden p.m.7/2. Intend HAWKINS refuel Mombasa 0700C/1, attack Mogadishu p.m./2/2 arriving Aden a.m. 5/2. Presume Mogadishu may be bombed. Admiralty's 1946/25. Intend to attack with torpedoes any shipping within 30 miles Coast North of Mogadishu.
(S.O.Force K, 0627Z/30 to C.in C. E.I.)

Your 0627/30.
(i) Concur in HAWKINS fuelling at Mombassa.

(ii) Also concur in bombing shore targets subject to Admiralty approval since only laying of your Cucumbers is at present permitted by Admiralty's 0103/30.

(iii) A.O.C.Nairobi informs me that most suitable shore targets are ?aerodromes and hangars, ordnance depot two miles south west of aerodrome. Doubtful whether railway or power station worth attack as destruction of stations on this short railway not likely to impede the war effort and power station very small and difficult to pick out.

(iv)Sink any ship found at ?Mogadishu?. I concur in your last sentence as far north as Ras Hafun if capture is not practicable.
(C.in C. E.I. 1932Z/30 to S.O.Force K.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 30.1.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Trcop Transport. C.in C. East Indies 0710/28. Undesirable to Use DOMINION MONARCH or CHRISTIAN HUYGENS. My 0005/22 refers. But ORBITA may be used.

2. To overcome difficulty caused by different destinations of troops now in HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN and HIGHLAND PRINCESS it is proposed that the following transfers should be effected at Durban.

A.1100 Personnel for India ex HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN to be transferred to WINDSOR CASTLE for onward passage to India with EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA and ORMONDE.

B. 1100 personnel for Egypt ex WINDSOR CASTLE, plus 1100 personnel for Egypt ex HIGHLAND PRINCESS to be transferred to ORBITA for onward passage to Egypt with W.S.5.B.

5. CHRISTIAAN HUGENS can thus adhere to original itinerary calling at Mombasa en route to U.K.

4. C.in C. East Indies and C.in C. South Atlantic are requested to issue the necessary instructions.
(D.S.T. 1808/30 to C.in C. E.I., C.in C. S.A.)

America and West Indies.

U.S. Navy Request for Information. In view of possible entry of U.S. into the war Navy Department desirous of obtaining information which would enable U.S. to duplicate our system of Naval Control or to collaborate with our organisation. At an exploratory conference between Lt. Commander Fitzhugh Lee, U.S.N.A. Curacao, the Netherlands S.N.O. and myself , I was informed that for the moment it was only desired to obtain names of ships entering and leaving harbour without respect to destination. Information is required twice a week for transmission by U.S. Consul in code to U.S.Naval Authorities.
Request Information.
(S.N.O. Curacoa 1305/30 to C.in C. A.W.I).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

31.1.1941.
FRIDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.N.7. My 0021/30.

(d) One H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, BRIGHTON, LANCASTER, ST. ALBANS, CHARLESTOWN.

(d) Two F.O.C. 18th C.S. in one of 18th C.S. H.M.S. RODNEY and two cruisers from 18th C.S.

(g) 1830 February 4th.

(k) 11 knots.

(i) 0315 February 6th.

(o) Port Z.A.1700 February 7th.

(r) 0800 February 2nd.

(t) H.M.S. SCOTT will call at Thorshavn to pass a signal a.m. February 4th.

(u) Mark Beacon in position 063 degs. 02' N., 009 degs 40' W.

(x) Mark XX S/XII three star set to 12 feet.

(y) Full outfit. Standard line.
(R.A.M.L. 1612/31).

Operation F.D.29. It would be an advantage if Northern Limit Area given in S.W.M.19 para 2 A could be extended to 072 degs. N. for duration of operation referred to in para.3 of my 1303/14. It is appreciated that this would require a very northerly route for neutral ships proceeding between Petsamo and Atlantic. (F.O.S. 2008/31 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 31.1.1941. FRIDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Operation E.A.

900. Operation EA. Object, to lay mines in the vicinity of Fro Havet.

2. Ships taking part, ARETHUSA, AURORA, INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, and 2 destroyers to be detailed by R.A.(D) Home Fleet.

3. Execution. It is intended to sail the force on Sunday, 2nd February "to lay mines at about 0200/4th February". Mines will be laid in a general direction East and West within ten miles of position 064 degs. 18' North 009 degs. 40' East.

4. Outwardroute. Through position (A) 063 degs. N., 003 degs. W. (B) 066 degs. N., 005 degs E. thence to position of lay speed will be adjusted to pass through position (B) at about 1730/3rd February.

5. After completion of lay, force will return to Scapa passing to westward of Shetlands and Orkneys.

6. C.in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange for long range fighter protection to be available during daylight, 3rd and 4th February. Code word HEAVY.

7. Detailed operation orders will be issued to ships taking part.
(C.in C. H.F. 2234/31).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Defence of Orkneys and Shetlands.

The following are my remarks on A.L.M. 01108/41 of 22nd January 1941.

2. I have always understood Government have vested me with operational command of military forces in Orkneys and Shetlands for chief reason that Scapa Flow is Fleet's main base. This control in terms of all the items enumerated in para.2. of Annexe is I consider for defence of Fleet. It is also necessary so that I am in a position to co-ordinate naval, military and air force measures for defence of fleet and of Shetlands. I hope nothing will be done to deprive me of this control and of a position which has worked excedingly well in in practice.

/3.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

31.1.1941.
FRIDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom. (Contd.)

Defence of Orkneys and Shetlands. (Contd.)

3. With regard to para.4 of the Chief of General Staff's memo I do not quite understand why the Land Forces of the Orkneys and Shetlands cannot be considered in isolation and why the defence must be closely co-ordinated with the Land Defences of the North of Scotland. There is no possibility of reinforcing military forces in the Orkneys and Shetlands in under 12 hours at the least. In particular the arrangements for reinforcing aerodromes in the Islands when attacked must be carried out by troops "in the island". A delay in reinforcing them even by one hour would in all probability necessitate operations and reinforcements on the scale of that necessary to recapture the Islands.

4. For some time I have been asking for the essential troops to be stationed in the Island so that aerodromes can be immediately reinforced and re-inforcements sent to repel a troop landing if this occurs. Nothing has as yet been done and it would seem that the Chief reason for this is that it is necessary for the War Office to refer such request to the C.in C. Home Forces. If the transfer of the operational policy of the military forces in the Islands will facilitate getting these essential troops stationed in the Islands I consider operational control might be given to the C.in C. Home Forces but only on the condition that my local operational control as indicated in para.2 is not impaired. (A.C.O.S. 1615/31).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Gibraltar local Forces.

During absence of Force H total Force remaining available at my disposal will be 3 A/S trawlers 3 M/S trawlers 4 armed B/Vessels. WISHART and FORTUNE in Dockyard hands probably completing 1/2 and 9/2. respectively

/and

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Gibraltar local Forces. (Contd.)	and crippled RESOLUTION. This Force is not sufficient to enable me to implement instructions contained in Admiralty 1152/30/2. para.(b). Request consideration may be given to increasing number of submarines based here and establishment of a Flotilla at least 6 M.T.B's here at a very rush date. When may the 9 P.B.Y's and 8 Fairmiles referred to in Admty. letter M.020813/40 of 26/12 be expected? (F.O.C.N.A. 1258/31 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

NORFOLK, DEVONSHIRE, S.L. and W.S.5.B. Convoys, TAMERLANE.	BULOLO's 1200/31 NORFOLK approx. position 008 degs. 00'N., 020 degs. 30' W. DEVONSHIRE 000 degs. 35'N., 020 degs. 55'W. both approx. 30% fuel remaining. S.L.S. and S.L. convoy one day out of Freetown. W.S.5.B. and TAMERLANE to consider. Intend DEVONSHIRE to (? order) DESIRADE, NORFOLK and DEVONSHIRE to R/V in position 004 degs. N., 021 degs. W. as preliminary measure but should fuel shortly. Suggest S.L.Convoy be re-routed East of Cape Verde Island. (C.in C. S.A. 1611N/31 to Admty).
Troop Transport W.S.6. EMPIRE TROOPER.	Your 2003/24 two and three, troops are ready and this can be arranged. Four, no suitable shipping is available for this move. Propose that EMPIRE TROOPER be sailed from Gibraltar in time to arrive Lagos not later than 23/2 French Senegalese Brigade to be embarked at Lagos together with British West African troops. EMPIRE TROOPER then to proceed Takoradi for remainder of British West Africans and sail to R/V with W.S.6. when 3 days out from Freetown. Escort from Lagos and Takoradi will be available. Five. Local

/arrangements ...

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

31.1.1941.
FRIDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Troop Transports W.S.6. EMPIRE TROOPER.

arrangements to be made at Lagos for victualling EMPIRE TROOPER. Six, concur in use of PORT BINGER for shipment of MT direct to Port Sudan. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to inform me draught of EMPIRE TROOPER when loaded with troops and complete with water and fuel.
(C.in C. S.A. 2153/31 to D. of S.T.)

East Indies.

Force K "C" Cruiser not available.

My 0634/28. ("C" Class cruiser will probably be available to accompany Force K whilst HAWKINS is away). Para 3. Owing to change of programme C Class Cruiser will not now be available.

(2) Admiralty decision whether "Composition" is to be rearranged is awaited. If it is to take place or decision has not been received before (? oiler transport) sails 6C/ucumbers are to be taken from (?Mombasa) to Aden.
(C.in C. E.I. 0520Z/31 to S.A.Force K).

CAPETOWN.

(i) Cancel my 0810/28 (not to CERES and N.O.I.C. East Africa).

(ii) CAPETOWN is to proceed through position 000° 30'South 045° 20'East to Mombasa arriving a.m./3.
(C.in C. E.I. 0744Z/31 to S.O.Force K, CAPETOWN).

Force K. Operation.

C.in C. East Indies 193?/30 para.2:-
No objection to bombing in addition to laying of Cucumbers, subject to FORMIDABLE's arrival in Mediterranean not being delayed.
(D.O.D.(F) 1710/31 to C.in C. E.I.
S.O.Force K).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.1.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

FOREIGN STATIONS

Vichy French

Operation "Ration"

A convoy of four French merchant ships, CHANTILLY, RAUZAN, SALLY MARSK and OCTANE, escorted by the armed trawler LA TOULONNAISE was intercepted and boarded clear of Spanish territorial waters off Cape Tresforcas at noon today by destroyers of 13th D.F. with BONAVENTURE in support.

The escort strongly protested and threatened grave consequences. Escort was allowed to proceed to Oran. JAGUAR, one of the intercepting destroyers, reports certain casualties including M. Tarte and daughter aged 12, in CHANTILLY, by accident as a result of resistance to boarding.

The French trawler SENATOR DUHAMEL, intercepted by CAMITO at 1600/28, is to be sent under armed guard to U.K. where the ship and cargo will be seized.

North Atlantic

Command

V.A. Sir Frederick Edward-Collins assumed command of the North Atlantic Station today.

Submarine Patrol

Submarines TRIUMPH, USK and UPHOLDER are to establish a patrol in the vicinity of Cape Spartel.

South Atlantic

W.S. 5 A.

DEVONSHIRE is to proceed to St. Helena to fuel and then rendezvous with HAWKINS and W.S. 5 A and escort to Durban.

Mediterranean

JADE, A/S trawler, reports an attack on a U-Boat off Grand Harbour, Malta on 29/12.

3 cruisers, 4 destroyers and 20 merchant ships were reported by aircraft reconnaissance at Tripoli this morning.

Ammunition dumps and warehouses at Valona were heavily bombed by the R.A.F. yesterday A large convoy was seen approaching the harbour.

Tiger

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.1.1941
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

MANCHESTER and NIGERIA, who have been supporting the A.M.C's CHITRAL and LETITIA in the Denmark Strait, returned to Scapa at 1330 today; and an A/S sweep down the meridian of 21° W from 60° N to 57° N has been ordered to be carried out by OTTAWA and GARLAND on their return from Ocean Escort duty to the Clyde where they are due a.m./4.

The sailings for Operation "Parcel" ordered today for the 15th January will necessitate a postponement of the docking of NELSON and of the refit of HOOD.

British Air Activity

All Air Patrols in the Rosyth Area were cancelled today, except Patrol FAIR; but U-Boats at Bordeaux and Train Ferries at Flushing were attacked by our Bombers last night.

Enemy Air Activity

2 enemy flying boats attacked the even-numbered F.N. Convoy at 1755 today off the Tees, firing one Torpedo which failed to explode and retiring to the Eastward on being engaged by VERDUN. The odd-numbered F.S. Convoy was also attacked off Clacton at 1117 this morning, one bomb being dropped without effect.

Mining

The Port of Tees was closed at 2019 this morning owing to suspected enemy minelaying, though Hartlepool remains open; a heavy explosion was seen at 1610 off Brightlingsea at a time when no vessel was in sight; and the A/P Trawler ROTHERSLADE was damaged by a deep explosion this morning off the entrance to the Tyne.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.1.1941
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Dhows Intercepted

PARRAMATTA, Australian destroyer, has intercepted 4 dhows from Dahlak Island suspected of trading with Italian East Africa.

China

Raiders

Captain on Staff, Singapore, states that photographs of the raider which sank AUTOMEDON show a close similarity to the REICHENFELS. The name "Atlantis" on the stern was painted over. In addition to several captures, there is evidence that "ATLANTIS" was responsible for laying mines off South Africa. Prisoners state that ATLANTIS had been at sea 13 months, was capable of 20 knots with foul bottom, and had accurate news of shipping movements from world wide German agents.

Reports regarding the possible use of Marshall Island as a refuelling base are substantiated by certain known movements of raiders and suspected movements of German ships from Japan.

Minesweepers

ABERDARE and HARROW, unsuited to requirements in China, are to be sent to Alexandria to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

Teges

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

BATH
ST. ALBANS.

BRIGHTON.
LANCASTER.

A. M. 2214/20. After discussion with Norwegian Admiral, propose BATH and ST. ALBANS be manned by Norwegians. Propose they be relieved by BRIGHTON and LANCASTER after these two ships have worked up about end of January and that BATH and ST. ALBANS should then be taken in hand for stage II and ballasting. It is desirable that this should be carried out at a Royal Dockyard to facilitate training of the Norwegians. Request Yard may be allocated.
(C. in C. W.A. 1647/1 to Adty.)

Next Meeting of Prime Minister with C's in C.

A.M. 2028/25/10. Next Meeting probably on 10/1. Request you or your representative attend and forward matter for Agenda to reach Adty by 5/1. (1st. S.L. 1728/1 to C's - in - C, A.C.O.S, V.A. Dover.)

Iceland.

Fishing Areas.

Your 1724/23/12.
(A) Fishing can be permitted only within 4 miles of coast,
(B) Cancel position (K) in A.M. 0221/31/8, and substitute position (K) Kambanes Lighthouse 64 deg. 48' N, 13 deg. 51' W.
(M.E.D. 1910/1 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/1. (D.C. 1133/1.)

OBAN.

A/A Defences.

Your 2300/30.
Defended anchorage will be limited on the South by a line 090° from Black Island and will cover the extent of the Lynn of Lorn.(D. of L.D. 1551/1 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)

5 A.A. Divisions will shortly be getting in touch with you in regard to shipment and landing of 4 Bofors guns for defence of Convoy Assembly Anchorage, Oban. Request you will arrange all possible, Naval Assistance.(D. of L.D. 1818/1 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

MOST SECRET.

1. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

PRINCE OF WALES. A.S. Rosyth 1148/31. Propose ship leave Mersey 28/1 and arrive Rosyth PM/30. (A.S.C.B.S. 1203/1 to Controller.) Your 1148/31. Ship is to arrive in time to enter Basin on 24/1. (Controller 1712/1 to A.S. Rosyth.)

WESTON, VIMIERA. Proceed to join F.N.73 forthwith. Do not exceed 12 knots. (C. in C. Nore 1109/1.)

BEVERLEY. Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1215/1.)

CURACOA. Left Scapa 1253 to escort W.N.62. (A.C.O.S. 1301/1.)

MANCHESTER. NIGERIA. Arrived Scapa 1330 (A.C.O.S. 1503/1.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. 6 Trawlers. (A. C.O.S. 1548/1.)

STANLEY. Sailed 1515. E.T.A. Rame Head 1630/2. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1550/1.)

MEYNELL. Arrived Scapa 0929. (A.C.O.S. 1615/1.)

KASHMIR, JUPITER, WORCESTERSHIRE. To R/V in 330° Longships 9 miles at 1530/2 and escort to Southampton. Route of WORCESTERSHIRE. C. in C. Portsmouth requested to sail Destroyers to arrive 2.2 miles South of Rame Head at 1030/4.(C. in C. W.A. 1624/1.) KASHMIR, JUPITER sailed 0940 and 1010 for exercises and thence to Dartmouth. (C. in C. W.A. 1706/1.)Arrived (H.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1851/1.)

HOLDERNESS. C. in C. Nore 1204/1. Sail 0900/2 to R.V. with F.S.76 at about 1030 and thence to Sheerness. (Capt. D.16. 1636/1.)

DOUGLAS/

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

DOUGLAS
KEPPEL,
DURAGON.

Arrived Port Z.A. at 1700.
(TRELAWNEY 1701/1.)

NAIAD,
PHOEBE.

NAIAD to proceed AM/2 to Oban to relieve PHOEBE. PHOEBE to sail for Scapa on relief (C. in C. H.F. 1757/1.)

AUSTRALIA.

Arrived 1600 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1855/1.)

ELGIN.

Arrived 0852 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0913/1)

ARETHUSA.
AURORA,
HASHONA,
JAVANAISE,
ENDOUR,
TARTAR,
INTREPID,
ICARUS.

Returned Scapa 1109.(A.C.O.S. 1127/1.)

Operations.

A/S. Sweep.

Detach OTTAWA. GARLAND to carry out A/S sweep down Meridian 021° W. between 060° N. and 057° N. thence to Clyde to arrive A.M./4.(C. in C. W.A. 1594/1 to SALOPIAN.)

MINNIE DE
LARRINAGA.

Following is proposed. (V.A. Dover 1115/1 to C. in C. Nore.) See Operations Volume. Request ship arrive Southend by 1600/3. In view of sweeping requirements, consider earliest time can pass Thames Gate on 4/1 is 1030. (C. in C. Nore 1506/1 to Adty.)

Operation.
PARCEL.

Is to be carried out, sailing on 15th January.
2. This will entail docking of NELSON and refit of HOOD being postponed, and it is requested that you will make arrangements accordingly direct with C. in C. Rosyth.(V.C.N.S. 1547/1 to C. in C. H.F.)

Auxiliary/

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. Contd.

Auxiliary and DAGGER Patrols.

My 1717/1. Patrol cancelled during the night owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1812/1.)

Operation. SPECIMEN.

Intend to repeat Operation with O.G.49, which sails from Liverpool 7/1. (C. in C. W.A. 1916/1 to Adty.)

Patrol O.

Cancel Patrol today. (C. in C. Nore 1341/1 to D.16.)

Submarines.

Greenock Area.

Movements 1340/1. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1340/1 and 1950/1).

H. 98.

Sailed Rothesay escorted by BREDA. (S.7. 1601/1.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/2. (V.A.S. 1737/1.)

UNBEATEN.

Arrived (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1921/1.)

GRAYLOLF.

Sailed for Clyde escorted by PHILANTE (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1942/1.)

SEVERN.

My 1826/29. Suggest she be escorted to about 10° W, by dark and proceed thence escorted by route clear of Convoys, bombing restrictions being applied over a lane 30 miles wide. (C. in C. W.A. 2016/1 to V.A.S.)

O. 25.

Arrived Dundee. (S.9. 1031/1.)

L. 23.

Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1324/1.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Standard Patrols. Following only are in force, and all previous signals should be cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 0002/1.)

Rotterdam.
Ijmuiden.
Flushing. } 5 Blenheims attacked during 31/12. Results. (H.Q.B.C. 0116/1.)

Patrols. Ordered today: STAB., STAND, BERT, HORNLI, UNST, FAIR. (C. in C. Rosyth 0814/1.) All Patrols cancelled today except FAIR. (C. in C. Rosyth 1156/1.)

Lorient.
Flushing. } 53 Sqdn. to attack S/M's and Naval Dockyard at Lorient tonight. 59 Sqdn. to attack tonight Train Ferries at Flushing. (H.Q.C.C. 1255/1.)

Bordeaux. 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's and shipping at Bordeaux. Alternative Target, Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1257/1.)

Flying of Balloons. Your 1106/29/12. Conditions for flying balloons remain as for kites except that maximum height for ballons is at present 2000 feet and that when kites are being hauled down balloons are close hauled to 500 feet or lower if weather permits. Present instructions for kites for ships in and out of convoy are contained in A.M.S. I. 120 as amended for ships in convoy at night by Admiralty Message 2127 of 4/11, but at night by Admiralty Message 2127 of 4/11, but modifications are under consideration and decision will be promulgated shortly. (Kite Section 1458/1. to C. in C. Rosyth.

MOST SECRET.

1. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

F.S. Odd.
Convoy.

Being bombed in 51° 47' N. 1° 30' E.
(HASTINGS 1117/1.)

F.N. Odd
Convoy.

Being shadowed by one A/C in 51° 32' N. 1° 3' E. (WESTON 1159/1.) Six A/C in sight of Convoy (WESTON 1215/1.)

H.X. Convoy.
BROOM.

Help in 55° 55' N. (?longtitude) (Plymouth W/T 1338/1.) Fighters bring sent. (Plymouth W/T 1354/1.)

Even-numbered
F.N. Convoy.

2 Flying-Boats bearing 120° 2 miles from Convoy AGENT. My position 54° 38' N. 0° 50' W. (VERDUN 1755/1). Enemy engaged and retired Eastward. One splash probably Torpedo. No explosion. (VERDUN 1817/1.)

Mining.

Operation.
D.4.

Sailed from Scapa C.S.S. in ARETHUSA with AURORA, MASHONA, MATABELE, BAIDOUIN, TARTAR, INTREPID, and ICARUS at 0600. (A.C.O.S. 0830/1.)

Operation postponed. (C. in C. H.F.1116/1 to Adty.)

Cancel my 2206/31. Operation postponed (V.A.S. 1209/1 to S/M's Area A) Force described in my 2206/31 leaves Hoxa 0800/2 for following positions and leaves for Base at 0200/3. 2 I-class Destroyers leave from near Obrestad after laying and R/V with rest of Force at 0930/3. S/M's to keep 30 miles clear. (V.A.S. 2016/1 to S/M's Area A.)

Operation.
E.N.E.10.

To be carried out on Night 2/1 or as soon after as possible. 7 miles 116 from 51° 34' 30" N. 6° 22' W. (V.C.N.S.1159/1 to C. in C. W.A. and ADVENTURE.

ROTHERSLADE/

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

ROTHERSLADE. A/P Trawler, damaged by deep Explosion in 55° 4' 40" N. 1° 19' 48" W. Vessel returned to harbour and safely berthed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1303/1.)

S.N.71. Propose to sail AM/9 and lay as follows probably on 13/1. Expect return Port Z.A. about 17/1. ST.ALBANS and CHRISTOPHER should be available. C. in C.H.F. requested to say if 2 further Destroyers, Cruiser Escort, and Covering Force can be made available. (R.A.M.L. 1641/1 to Adty.)

Brightlingsea. Explosion observed by Patrols at 1610/1 near Priority Spit. No vessel in sight at time. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1816/1 to C. in C. Nore.)

Tees. Port of Tees closed. Hartlepool open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2019/1.)

Liner off Bergen. S/M. O. 23 reports a brilliantly lit Liner steering South at 17 knots at 1900/28/12, in 60° 11' N. 4° 13' E. (V.A.S. 1846/1 to Adty.)

BREMEN.
BREMERHAVEN.
VEGESAK.
WILHELMSHAVEN.
AMSTERDAM.
IJMUIDEN. } Warships and Shipping seen at 1345/1. (PRU. 2300/1 to N.I.D.)

Enemy Convoy off Ijmuiden. At 1515/31 about 10 miles S.W. of Ijmuiden, 9 M/V's up to about 7000 Tons steering slowly Northwards. Camouflaged and no visible Escort. Opened fire on our A/C. (H.Q.B.C. 0116/1 to Air Ministry.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

LINCOLN. My 1840/27. Delayed by defective D/F. Expect sail 4/1. (R.A.D. 1545/1 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

Derelict. Ship. Tug CAROLINE MOLLER sailed to salve or sink Derelict reported 7 miles South of Lizard. (F.O.I. C. Falmouth 1650/1 to C. in C. W.A.)

FIDRA. (British, 1574 Tons.) ST. FERGUS. (British, 390 Tons.) FIDRA in Convoy W.N.61 in collision at 2337/31/12 off Rattray Head with St. FERGUS sailing independently. ST. FERGUS reported sunk, Captain only casualty, and 10 survivors landed Methil 1700/1. FIDRA damaged and leaking but in no immediate danger. (N.O.S.O. Methil 1740/1 to Adty.)

BERKSHIRE. Engine broken down in 025° Cape Wrath 7 miles. Request Tug. (BERKSHIRE 1840/1 to A.C.C.S.) Send Tug to assist. (A.C.C.S. 1939/1 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway). Fleet Tug BRIGAND sailing to assist. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 2128/1 to A.C.C.S.) BERKSHIRE can steam dead slow. Am rejoining Convoy. (CAPE MARIATO 0100/2 to A.C.C.S.)

H.L.117. Arrived 0015 with defective steering gear. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0845/1.)

Coaster. In distress 12 miles 242° from St. Anne's Head. (Portishead Radio 0929/1.) Tug GOLIATH sailed to assist. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1242/1.)

BATH. Defective. (R.A.M.L. 1043/1 to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys	Situation (D.T.D. 1145/1 to C. in C., H.F.)
F.S.76	My 1627/31. Additions (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1006/1
O.B.M. 269	1640/2. ROSEMARY, YORK CITY, 8. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1045/1)
W.N. 61	Arrived 1100/1. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1105/1)
O.B.O. 268	0300/2/1. Escort ARBUTUS. 11 ships. (N.C.S.O Oban 1545/1)
O.B. 269	Amendment to 1642/30, pre-sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1639/1)
O.B. 270	Amendment to 1641/30, pre-sailing telagram (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1705/1)
F.N. 73	List (N.C.S.O. 1717/1)
O.G.O. Convoys	Commencing with O.G. 49, the Oban portion of this convoy will be designated O.G.O. with code word "Strand" and call sign M.H.W. (D.S.D. (A.Z. Message Home 36 A.Z) 1729/1)
F.N. 71 A.	Arrived 1915/1. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1945/1)
W.N. 62	With MANCHESTER CITY and H. 34 passing 57.50 N., 2000, speed of advance 8 knots. (KING SOL 2005/1)
O.B.C. 268	Sailed 2200/1. Escort WOLVERINE. List (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2215/1)
E.N. 50	2200/1, BLACKFLY, ELLESMERE, additional escort FOWEY. 14 ships, 2 for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2315/1) List (2316/1)
F.S. 77	Sailed 2300/1. 4 ships (N.C.S.O., Methil 2330/1)
C.E. 21	Intend to sail C.E. 2 1 from St. Helens on 4/1 Timetable at 7 knots. Convoy should proceed by normal route to Folkestone Gate thence to pass through following positions. (W. in C., Nore, 0936/1)

/departure.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
S.L. 61-Contd S.L.S. 61	Departure 0830/1. BULOLO as ocean escort to convoy S.L. 61 in accordance with C. in C., S.A. 1159/31/12. Also sailed Convoy S.L.S. 61. Two A/S Trawlers provided as local escorts to each convoy. (S.O. (I) Freetown, 1017N/1 to Admty.)
F.N. 72	Humber 1/1 departure H.M.Trawler HENRIETTE to join F.N. 72 for Granton at 0400. (F.O.Humber 1039/1)
O.B.O. 268	Sailed ARBUTUS to escort O.B.O. 268. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1015/1.)
O.B.C. 268	Sailed WOLVERINE to escort O.B.C. 268. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1251/1)
H.X. 97	Escorting MANSEPOOL, ARY LENSEN, VENETIA, BOSTON CITY, NEWTON MOORE. My position 334° Tory Island, 54 course 110° eight knots. (VISCOUNT, 1300/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

H.S. Note- VISCOUNT and other destroyers had been ordered at 1614/29 to proceed to 57° N., 16° 32' W., to collect any of the ships of H.X. 97 scattered by weather.

Expect to arrive position 053° 48' N., 005° 08' W., at 0900/2 with 3 ships for Bristol Channel and 2 for Liverpool. N.O.I.C. Holyhead is requested to pass to Trawler escort portion M. (VISCOUNT, 1715/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

My position at 2020 334° Altacarry 8. L?BP (?) could be LEBP (HEIEN) or LJBP (MOSLI) entering North Channel. No other ship sighted. Am proceeding to Liverpool. (WHITEHALL, 2035/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

Cancel my 1220 first meet three ships for Bristol Channel expected to arrive in position 053° 48' N., 005° 08' W., at 0900/2 escorted by VISCOUNT. (C. in C., W.A., 2038/1 to DERBY COUNTY)

Adjust speed to arrive Bell Light Float not earlier than 0930 ships in convoy to be in line ahead 1 mile apart before crossing 20 fathom line. Ships are not to anchor inside 20 fathom line. Those unable to enter harbour in daylight anchor Moelfre Bay. Keep within one cable to North of Dan buoy on QZS 129. Motor ship(s) as slowly as possible. Attention is called to 952 AZ. All Channel lights extinguished. (N.O.I.C.Liverpool 2330/1 to VISCOUNT)

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	**Shipping**
O.B. 268	Sailed DELPHINIUM and ERICA escorting O.B. 268. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1315/1)
	My 1315/1 add DEPTFORD. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2054/1)
S.L.S. 59	Meet S.LS. 59 12 ships unescorted. 1000/3 065° 53° 40' N., 15° 00' W., 065° 7 knots (C. in C., W.A., 1200/1 to AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, HEARTSEASE, HOLLYHOCK, MARGUERITE)
	Route for S.L.S 59 from rendezvous steer 065° for 53 miles then through position 047° 307 miles from SWIFT then to split in position 061° 420 miles from SWIFT. Local escorts have been informed. (C. in C., W.A., 1436/1 to LIBERIAN)
F.S. 76	HOLDERNESS is to be sailed for Sheerness with F.S. 76 2/1. (C. in C., Nore, 1204/1)
W.N. 62	Scapa departure CURACOA 1232 for escort of W.N. 62. (A.C.O.S. 1301/1 to Admty.)
W.N. 62 F.S. 79	S/M H 34 to proceed to Rosyth on arrival of W.N. 62 in Firth of Forth and to sail to join F.S. 79 due to leave Methil at 8300/3 (C. in C., Rosyth 2303/1 to S/M H 34)
S.C. 16	S.C. 16 arrived Swinbourne area . (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1347/1)
O.B.C. 269 H.G. 49	MANISTEE leaves Clyde p.m. 3/9 in convoy O.B.C. 269. After dispersal routed through 050° 00' N., 025° 00' W., 040° 00' N., 024° 30' W., 035° 00' N., 023° 00' W., thence to area T 1 and U 1 passing West of Q 1 and R 1. CAVINA leaves patrol for Clyde and overtake and join convoy H.G. 49 in daylight 6/1. Convoy passes through 038° 00' N., 018° 30' W., at 0800 G.M.T. 3/1 thence to 050° 00' N., 022° 50' W., speed 7 knots. CAMITO leaves patrol to arrive Gibraltar a.m. 5/1. (F.O.C.N.P. 1430/1 to Western Patrol)
Convoy "Major"	Your 0947/31. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1433/1 to N.C.S.O. Barry)

/E.N. 49.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	Shipping
E.N. 49	Position estimated at 2000/1. E.N. 49 058° 44' N., 005° 25' W., SALOPIAN, OTTAWA, and GARLAND escorting two merchant vessels 060° 52' N., 025° 00' W., southbound CHITRAL N.P. 42 LETITIA N.P. 41 (A.C.O.S. 1537/1)
F.N. 73	F.N. 73 9 ships 1 H.MT. and 6 trawlers from Humber joining at 62 D buoy all for north of Blyth except 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1706/1)
F.N. 73 F.S. 76	More and Harwich movements summary of Convoy escorts F.N. Convoy 73 SHEARWATER, due at No 5 Buoy 2200/1. Convoy F.S. 76 SHELDRAKE due at No 5 Buoy 0500/2. (N.O.I.C Harwich 1717/1 to SHELDRAKE, SHEARWATER)
E.N. 47	E.N. 47 not arrived CHESHIRE COAST (N.C.S.O Liverpool 1834/1)
F.S. 79	My 1017/27/12. H. 34 from Methil for Southend will sail in F.S. 79. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1915/1)
F.S. 79	Following is a repetition of my 1915 convoy message. My 1017/27/12. Submarine H. 34 from Methil for Southend will sail in F.S. 79 (C. in C., Rosyth 1927/1 to Admty etc.)
W.N. 63	W.N. 63, 1812/1. H.M.Trawlers HUGH WALPOLE (S.O.) and PENTLAND FIRTH 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1950/1 to C. in C., W.A.)
3 M.V's.	Your 1807/30 (? My 1807/30) Arrived. (N.C.S.O Dartmouth 1436/1)
S.L. 59	CLARKIA, SKATE, ARABIS, DILIGENT have searched 20 miles round position indicated in your 1252/31 now proceeding to position indicated in your 2116/1. CLARKIA, SKATE rejoined convoy. Please inform DILIGENT of new position 54° 28' 17° 51'. (ARABIS 2230/1 to C. in C., W.A.)
TRoop Convoys	
GEORGIC WARWICK CASTLE	Have no instructions about GEORGIC or WARWICK CASTLE yet. First news of these ships comes in Admty's 2202/31 giving their sailing date (P.S.T.O. Clyde, 1012/1 to D of S.T.)

/N.S. B.A.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Troop Convoys-Contd.

Shipping

W.S. 5 A.

Your 1258/30. W.S. 5 A was organised in two parts vide Admiralty's 22 50/6 and no subsequent signals to N.C.S.O. indicated that both parts would proceed together therefore no combined order was provided for (S.N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1034/1 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Admiral Darlan.

New Year Message to French Fleet by Admiral Darlan. Text in D.S. 484, 1/1/41.

Vichy Ships.

Gibraltar 1115/1 French Armed Trawler CAPITAINE ARMAND escorting ARTESIEN PIERRE CLAUDE DIONE passed west to east. (1141/1).

Operation "Ration".

My 2324/30/12. Convoy of four merchant ships escorted by French armed trawler intercepted and boarded clear of Spanish territorial waters off Cape Tresforcas at 1200. Escort protested strongly and threatened grave consequences.
Convoy now being escorted to Gibraltar.
BONAVENTURE at sea in support.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1410/1 to Adty).

CHANTILLY has 200 seamen on board in ugly mood. Upper deck Officers are under arrest am sending extra boarding party.
SALLY MARSK stopped two hours in position 340 Cape Tres Forcas five miles with defect. FIREDRAKE standing remainder in same position steering 285 seven knots.
(Capt: (D) 13, 1444/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Capt: (D) 13th 1444/1 passed for information
(F.O.C.N.A. 1646/1 to Adty).

My 1410/1. Ships intercepted are CHANTILLY, RAUZAN?, SALLY MARSK and OCTANE. Escort armed Trawler LA TOULONAISE allowed to proceed to Oran and heard reporting by W/T. JAGUAR reports casualties in one ship including two killed. Am awaiting fuller report from Capt: (D) 13.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1610/1 to Adty).

Your 1610/1. Group 1 consisting of DUNCAN JAGUAR and CHANTILLY proceeding direct to Gibraltar from position 035° 40'N., 003° (? 32') W. JAGUAR reports following casualties in CHANTILLY from accident, killed Monsieur Tarte and daughter aged 12; wounded Madame Ziouaneuti Capataine Aupon Monsieur Vitard Seaman Artero. Hospital boat required on arrival. Probably impossible to darken CHANTILLY. Group 2, Consisting of HERO, FOXHOUND, OCTANE, TRIBE SUROIT and Group 3, consisting of FIREDRAKE and SALLY MARSK routed through 036° 00' N., 004° 15' W., are at present 10 miles astern of group 1. BONAVENTURE in close support of group 2.
(BONAVENTURE, 1803/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Contd.)

Your 1401/1 (? 1410). Do not carry out RATION again without further instructions but necessary force to have steam by 1300/2 for further RATION if ordered. S.O.Force H 1213/1 under consideration.
(1st Sea Lord 1916/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

F.O.C.N.A. 1410/1. Following from M.E.W. begins. Report summaries of cargoes, ports of loading and destination of all four French ships as soon as possible to ensure prompt consideration of question of seizure. Ends.
(D.E.W.D. 2001/1 to C.C.S.O.Gibraltar.)

BONAVENTURE 1803/1 weather unfit for boarding in bay. Remain under way to eastward Gibraltar outside Spanish territorial waters until weather moderates. Group 1 should remain N of 36 15'. Group 2 between 036° 15' and 036° 10' and Group 3 S of 036° 10'. BONAVENTURE establish visual signalling communication with P.W.S.S.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2252/1 to BONAVENTURE, Capt:(D) 13).

Report through BONAVENTURE nature of the accident which resulted in death of Monsieur Tarte and daughter in CHANTILLY.
(1st S.L. 2359/1 to JAGUAR).

SENATOR DUHAMEL.

French SENATOR DUHAMEL should be sent under armed guard to U.K. where ship and cargo will be seized.
(D.E.W.D. 1811/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

North Atlantic.

V.A. Sir Frederick Edward-Collins.

Assumed command of North Atlantic Station and duties of A.S. Gib. to date 1/1/41.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0700/1 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 1.1.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Whalers. Whalers POLAR five and SKUDD six left Ponta Delgada 1100 G.M.T. 1/1. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1002/1 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

CAPSA. CAPSA reports heard oscillation from convoy at distance of 50 miles. (F.O.C.N.A. 1005/1 to LEITH).

CACHALOT Azors. CACHALOT has nothing to report except that several merchant ships other than those expected arrived at Ponta Delgada. (V.A.S. 1034/1 to Adty).

OLYMPUS, Azores. OLYMPUS leaves Gibraltar 1845/2 for Azores Patrol proceeding on surface. (route) (later orders). (Capt: (S) 8th S/M Flotilla 1144/1 to Adty).

Press Report, Raider Action. Your 1434/31. Confirmed that BONAVENTURE must not be mentioned. No objection to proposed references to BERWICK omitting details of damage. (D.P.D. 1218/1 to S.O.Force H).

TRIDENT OLYMPUS. Position of S/Ms at 0800/2 B.S.T. and movements for following 24 hours are as follows. A.TRIDENT off Ponta Delgada. B.OLYMPUS leaves Gibraltar 1845/2 passing through position 340 Cape Spartel 12 and 035° 20'N., 008° 00'W., proceeding on surface speed of advance 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1246/1).

ROSLIN CASTLE, FERM, BELAIN D'ESNAMBUC. British ROSLIN CASTLE Capetown 22/12 Clyde 15½ knots 007° N., 021° W. 017° N., 021° W., 030° N., 024° W., 038° N., 023° W., 051° N., 024° W. Norwegian FERM 23/12 Gibraltar. E.T.A. 10/1 024° N., 041° W., 034° N., 01° W?. French BELAIN D'ESNAMBUC St.Thomas Virgin Is. 25/12 Casablanca. (F.O.C.N.A. 1336/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ALOUETTE. Gibraltar arrival 1030/1 ALOUETTE with invalids.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1550/1 to Adty).

Daily Summary Operations. One routine A/S patrol. One recco on French Coastal shipping Gibraltar to Oran. French escorted convoy of 4 ships intercepted off Cape Tresforcas. Ships now being escorted to Gibraltar.(See Vichy French) (200 Group 1730/1 to Air Min).

"Q" Message SANSU (British 5446 tons). Following read. Merchant Vessel Raider.. Q Q Q Q 35° 27' N., 21°56' W. SANSU S.S. (Valentia Radio, Portishead Radio 1743/1).

"Q" Message SANSU. Following received. Admiral Plymouth. Important received 1849 G.M.T. Valencia Radio received from MXOY, (presumably refers to Merchant Vessel raider report by SANSU) to C Q at 1841 cancel my (rest jammed). 1850/1 G.M.T. Lands End Radio. (C.in C. W.A. 1954/1 to Adty).

SANSU. CALIFORNIA reports searching for darkened ship Merchant type sighted ship at 0430/1 G.M.T. in position 041 degrees 17'N., 022 degrees W. Believed to be steering 220 degrees.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1650/1). My 1650/1 ship was English SANSU. (F.O.C.N.A. 1728/1).

My 0545/1. Location of ship British SANSU in position 038° 40'N., 021° 42'W., Cancel her Q message.
(CALIFORNIA 1858/1 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Submarine Patrol. S/M's TRIUMPH USK and UPHOLDER sail 220°/1 to establish patrol in the vicinity of following positions 270° Spartel five miles 000° Spartel five miles, 000° Malabata six miles. DERBYSHIRE adjust speed not to cross meridian 006° 10'W., before 0800/2.
(1847/1).

MOST SECRET.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

KENYA.
ARGUS.
BERWICK.

My 0216/31. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail KENYA. ARGUS and BERWICK as convenient. ARGUS and KENYA are required to reach R/V "Z" with inward A/S escort in position 55 degrees N., 22 degrees W. (date) Approach course through R/V "Z" should be 060 degrees. If escort is not met proceed in this course for 120' to position Q. ARGUS should proceed to Clyde and KENYA to Devonport. BERWICK should proceed to Portsmouth, proceeding independently after the destroyer escort from Gibraltar returns. If repairs to BERWICK do not permit of her being sailed with ARGUS, further instructions will be given. C.in C. W.A. is requested to detail inward A/S escort who should meet ARGUS and KENYA at R/V "Z". C.in C. W.A. is requested to arrange fighter protection for ARGUS and BERWICK.
(D.O.D. (F) 1938/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ENTERPRISE.

Ref: 0229/31/12 from Adty. (See W.S.5.A. and Raider) when complete with fuel ENTERPRISE is to proceed Simonstown.
(C.in C. S.A. 1019[illegible]/1 to R.A.S.A.D.)

South Atlantic.

Free French Forces.

Passed by N.C.S.O. Duala (begins). No.2. Your tel. 462. (1) Essential PRESIDENT HOUDOUCE be drydocked and engines overhauled. VIKING has not yet arrived but reports from Freetown indicate her dynamo badly damaged. In my opinion neither of these ships is in fit state to undertake duties suggested.
(11) COMMANDANT DUBOC and COMMANDANT DOMILENZ leaves about 15/1. (iii) No news of arrival of CAPTAIN CHARRIER. (iv) Conversion of CAP DES PALMES into armed merchant cruiser will necessitate her visiting U.K. Timed 1030/1 (Ends)
(1045/1 to Adty for V.A.C. Free French N.F. O.C. Free French Naval Forces in Africa).

MOST SECRET.

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WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ASTRI, suspects.

Admiralty message 559 A of 25/11/40. (particulars required re suspects on board ships on Category B suspect list).
Reference to Swedish ASTRI which left Santos 24/12 for Baltimore, S.O.(I) Montevideo reports as follows (Begins) Investigtion of crew list at Montevideo shows only Germans on board are Chief Cook and Steward. Buenos Aires reports Master is by no means pro Nazi but is liable to blame England for his personal troubles. Suggests further enquiry when ship arrives New York. (Ends).
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1048/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

VIRGINIA S.

My 1728/31 overdue shipping. VIRGINIA.S. arrived Buenos Aires 31/12.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1014/1).

SAINT GOBAIN.

Overdue shipping Swedish Ship SAINT GOBAIN due Capetown 28/12 from U.K. not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1115/1 to Adty).

Suspected Raider, dispositions.

My 1345/25 and your 0229/1/12 (? 31/12) It was thought indications up to 23/12 though vague suggested that an enemy surface vessel not necessarily warship might be moving towards the Cape with possibility of appearing in that area or moving to South India Ocean.
(C.in C. S.A. 1157/1/N to Adty).

My 1149/1. Part 2 and final. (Part 1 given T.O.O. 1137/1). DEVONSHIRE was retained at Simonstown to form group with CORNWALL on arrival in case any further indication of movement to Eastward or in Cape area was received. Possible also that raider which have been in Indian Ocean might move West again. CORNWALL has now been ordered to refit and DEVONSHIRE to proceed in accordance with instructions. ENTERPRISE and HERMES should be available for operations in this area about 23/1 after ENTERPRISE has had 7 days for self refit and HERMES 10 days for major overhauls of aircraft.
(C.in C. S.A. 1149/1 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

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WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

DEVONSHIRE
HAWKINS
CORNWALL.

Ref: 0229/31 from Adty. Sail DEVONSHIRE a.m. 2/1 at speed of advance 18 knots to St. Helena to fuel. After fuelling at St. Helena DEVONSHIRE will R/V with HAWKINS and W.S.5.A. and escort to Durban. R/V will be communicated later. CORNWALL is to commence refit forthwith.
(C.in C. S.A. 1151N/1 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

W.S.5.A.

Convoy W.S.5.A. Ships are to enter harbour in following order if practicable, but in any case troop transports should enter first. (list). Pilots will meet ships three miles West of Aleppo Buoy. FORMIDABLE DUNEDIN DORSETSHIRE NORFOLK and FURIOUS are to enter harbour before convoy in order named. A/S escort to remain outside to afford A/S protection while convoy is entering. Available A/S Forces from Freetown probably one sloop and one Corvette will meet Convoy seaward end of searched channel. Constitution of A/S Forces from Freetown is uncertain. A/S Operation during entry of convoy will be organized and directed by Senior Officer of Escort in ISIS. Coal, Oil Fuel and water requirements of each ship of convoy should be reported 24 hours before arrival water requirements being kept to minimum required for passage to next port of call.
(C.in C. S.A. 1451N/1 to S.O. Force K).

SURPRISE.

When ready for sea SURPRISE should be sailed as additional A/S escort for next available O.B. or O.G. Convoy, parting company as necessary to proceed to Freetown. She is to join the command of C.in C. S.A. on arrival on that station.
(D.O.D.(H) 1808/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

S. ANDRES, ashore.

Following received from N.C.S.O. para. (Begins) Norwegian ship S.ANDRES badly ashore off Melancieire Island Tutoya exposed position, reports that jettison of cargo is considered necessary 1121/31.(Ends) (S.O.(I) Freetown 1942/1 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Suspicious Ship, JOHAN Report.

My 1717/28/12 re report of suspicious vessel by S.S. JOHAN. Having had opportunity of interviewing Master of S.S. JOHAN I consider the information given unreliable. Further enquiries about the usage of lights of Orango Channel will be made from Portuguese ships calling at Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 2113/1 to Adty).

Free French Air Forces.

For Spears Mission. Following for D.A.A.C. Air Ministry from Bellairs. Further (? my letter) dated (? 14/12). Consider Captain Kopp as Air Adjutant thoroughly capable on slow aircraft and will be all right on high speed after short training. Have come to conclusion that Lysander most unsuitable (? coastal) patrol or use over Equatorial forest owing to short range and single (? engine). Suggest Anson aircraft more suitable coastal station like Libre-ville and Pointe Noire. Three Anson at each would liberate equal number Lysander which could be (? used) in North where conditions more suitable and would enable reserve to be formed. Crews can be found or trained locally. Consider as far best solution to meet requirements expressed by Navy that F.F. air force carry out coastal reconnaissance along own coastline. Request (? if omitted) possible supply 6 I.E. plus 1 I.R. Anson be signalled here.
(20 M.M. Brazzeville 2025/1 to W.O.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

JADE.

A/S trawler, attack on U-Boat off Malta 29/12.
(See U-Boat Campaign, S/M's attacked).

Greek A/S Officers.

Admty. 1737/20 Request approval to supply selected officers of Royal Hellenic Navy completing A/S course with C.B. 1966, 1970 and 3036. If approved, it is requested that six copies of each may be forwarded. Approval is also requested to supply Greek Liaison Officer at Alexandria with C.B. 01764 (39) and C.B. 1842.
(C. in C. Med 0907/1 to Admty)

Suda Bay Boom Defences.

Admty. 1533Z/28. (A) B I indicator nets are laid (1) From Deutero Point in a direction 182 for seven cables (11) From position 183 Deutero Point 2.5 cables in a direction 189 to South shore of Bay. (B) Table cloth A/B nets are laid (1) From Southern extremity of Suda Bay Fort in a direction 153° for 1.7 cables (11) From position 179° Southern extremity of Suda Bay Fort three cables in a direction 200° South Shore. Passage between Suda Bay Fort and North Shore is blocked by a line of B I nets and a line of table cloth nets. (C) Exposed A/T net consisting of four layers of B two net stopped together has been laid from position 167½° Pottier Point 3600 feet in a direction 200° for 3,000 feet. A number of barrels only has been laid from position 163° Pottier Point 2,850 feet in a direction 346° for 2,300 feet. Q B C 157 and Q B C 161 refer.
(C in C. Med. 1009/1 to Admty).

SYDNEY.

Your 0608/27. It is not expected H.M.A.S.SYDNEY will be available at Suez till 12/1.
(C. in C. Med. 1151/1 to C. in C. E.I).

/Tripoli.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Tripoli.	Aircraft reconnaissance Tripoli. s.m./1 Three cruisers four destroyers and twenty merchant ships. (V.A. Malta 1155/1 to TRUANT) (H.S. Note:- These were attacked by air the same night, see 2/1).
RORQUAL.	Captain S 1's 1247/30 (Return of O P and R. Class Submarines). RORQUAL is not required. (V.A.S. 1216/1 to C. in C. Med).
Air Report.	Operational Summ. No.205 up to 1200 hrs. 1.1.1941. 1. Egypt. 31/12:- Enemy troop and M.T. vehicle concentrations in Bardia area bombed by 27 Blenheims during day. No change in military situation at Bardia.
Valona.	2. Greece. Day 31/12:- 9 Blenheims dropped 9500 lbs. of bombs from 7000 ft. on ammunition dumps and warehouses at Valona. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1221/1).
SOUTHAMPTON.	SOUTHAMPTON forms part of 3rd Cruiser Squadron. (C. in C. Med. 1620/1 to Med Station.). (H.S. Note. Transferred from East Indies Command.).
Malta Air Report. Tripoli Reccon.	Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700 hours 1/1. All times G.M.T. 0847-1116 Glenn Martin 431 Flight photographic reconnaissance Tripoli harbour. 3 6 inch cruisers at shore end of Eastern Mole.4 destroyers moored near the bend of northern Mole 4 large M/Vs anchired at north cemtre of harbour. 6 large M/Vs anchored off Custorio 10 large M/Vs in 2 parallel lines at western end of harbour.

/2 seaplanes.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Malta Air Report. Tripoli Reccon. (contd).

2 seaplanes close to north western shore of harbour and 3 seaplanes at soutj eastern end of harbour. 1022-1155 Glenn Martin 431 Flight despatched reconnaissance Taranto but returned through adverse weather. 1200-1314 Glenn Martin photographic reconnaissance Pantellaria mentioned in my 0.193 31/12 unsuccessful. No enemy air activity over Malta today. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/1).

M.N.B.D.O.

My 1941/9/11/40. Full Equipment for Under Water Group, M.N.B.D.O. cannot at present be provided. Following arrangements are being made:-
(Details of (i) Boom Defence Unit).
(ii) Controlled Mining Unit.
(111) Indicator Loop Unit.
(D. of L.D. 1711/1 to C. in C. Med).

Turkish Conferences.

For Admiral Kelly. General Marshal Cornwall and Air Vice Marshal Elmhurst arrive on 13/1 in Angora to start conversations. Request you attend conferences as necessary in order to represent naval point of view. (C. in C. Med. 1755/2 to N.A. Angora).

Transport to Albania.

Belgrade telegram of 29/12 reporting Yugoslav vessels transporting war material to Albania. No confirmation in Admaralty. Please grade this report and give all possible information concerning sourse. (D.N.I. 1803/1 to A.N.A. Belgrade).

Flashless Powder.

Are the Italians using flashless powder at Bardia? Please consult General Wavell if necessary before you reply.
(1 S.L. 2153/1 to C. in C. Med).

/Cables.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (contd).

Cables RETRIEVER RECORDER.

Ref X 32556 dated 30/12. (1205 L.T./30) detailing programme RETRIEVER. Owing to failure of 3rd Port Sudan-Aden cable leaving only one cable for communications ex Egypt and as C. in C. East Indies has made escort arrangements, RETRIEVER, proceeding to repair Port Sudan-Aden cables before proceeding to Crete to carry out remainder of programme. RETRIEVER now ordered to proceed to Aden to carry out repairs. Priority of work required now, first, Red Sea; Second, (a) Aegean (b) Alexandria - Sollum cable; Third Persian Gulf. Therefore suggest does first and second (a). RECORDER does second (b). Should be grateful for ship provided for Indian Ocean and 3rd at earliest.
(C. in C. M.E. 2130/1 to W.O.).

East Indies.

Raider Report.

Following has been read. From Mombasa Radio heard 500 Kc/s QSA1 2345 G.M.T./31. R.R.R.R. British unread LO11N2. Unroad R.R.R. Faint whistle also heard. M.S.A. Radio 2350 G.M.T./31.
(Admiral, Colombo 0059Z/1).

Aden Force.

My 0942/14 (776C) Aden Force, delete AMBER add RATNAGIRI NETRATATI.
(C. in C. E.I. 0524/1 to East Indies Station).

ANTENOR.

ANTENOR is to leave Colombo at 0400 Z/2 and proceed to 12 knots to position 003° North 085° East and then to position 001° 30' South 073° 30'East.
(C. in C. E.I 0704Z/1 to ANTENOR).

SHROPSHIRE.

SHROPSHIRE is to leave Mombasa P.M. /2 and proceed to Durban at 15 knots passing through position 020° S. 041° E. and 030° S. 033° E. arriving Durban P.M. /7.
(C. in C. E.I. 0706Z/1 to SHROPSHIRE).

/Troop.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Troop Transport.

In order to get 240 Indian Naval Ratings and approximately 60 military personnel to U.K. have arranged with S.S.T.O. Egypt and C. in C. East Indies for 1 ship of W.S. 4 B to call at Aden on homeward voyage to embark these ratings who are being despatched from Bombay to connect at Aden. In view of your 1717 of 29/12 to S.T.O. Egypt para 7 request confirmation that all the ratings can travel to U.K. in this one ship, otherwise if divided between 2 or 3 ships great difficulties are foreseen as regards their feeding arrangements and cooks. (S.S.T.O. India 0800/1 to D.S.T.).

Dhows Persian Gulf.

Your 1434/29 para. 3. My position 025° Jebel Tier 31. Have 4 Dhows from Dahlak Is. but am not sure they have traded Grain to enemy. Can delay in towing these to Kamaran be accepted arriving Kamaran dawn 2/1 and Port Sudan 0700Z/3. ?
(PARRAMATTA, 1328Z/1 to S.N.O. Red Sea Force.).

Bombardment.

Your 1220Z/25/12 (no trace in W.R.). Air co-operation essential. If any bombardment is to be carried out it must take place before 9/1 owing to Army commitments requiring all available aircraft after that date. G.O.C.'s confirmation is being telegraphed to me if they are available till 9/1. A.O.C.'s representative is willing. Report of meeting and appreciation is being signalled tonight. (SHROPSHIRE 1530Z/1 to C. in C. E.L.).

STIRLING CASTLE.

My 2023/30. Your 0341/30 STIRLING CASTLE anticipated date of arrival U.K. 31/1. Master reports vessel requires docking. Vessel sailed today in S.W. 4 A. for U.K. via Capetown.
(S.S.T.O. Egypt 1721/1 to D. of S.T.).

/Persian.....

MOST SECRET.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Persian Gulf. Your INT/3. 31/12. (1305/31 - Possible Italian attack on Shatt-el-Arab and Basra). Iraqi Government should not be officially informed unless and until further more definite indications of hostile intentions are received.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1821/1 to Iraq)

W.S.4 B. Using ANDES, STRATHALLAN, ORCADES, VARSOEN (? VARSOVA) TAKLIWA and ships of "EMILY" a total of 14500 prisoners of war can be embarked.
Military strongly urge a balance of 11,500 should also be embarked for Bombay during January.
Can remaining ships W.S.4B be diverted to Bombay for this purpose?
(S.T.O. Port Said, 1844/1 to Transports, London).

China.

Q.D.B. messages. Following Q D B Messages are in force, (list). (R.A. Malaya, 0143Z/1, to China Station).

Raiders. REICHENFELS, ATLANTIS Photographs of raider that sank AUTOMEDON and interrogation of survivors confirms very close similarity to REICHENFELS C.A.F.O. 422/40 diagram 6, but fitted with screen in well deck, movable superstructure over number 3 Hatch, Samson post abaft funnel removed. Name Atlantis on stern painted over.
In addition to TEDDY, OLE JACOB, and AUTOMEDON, there is evidence that ATLANTIS was responsible for capture of TIRRANNA, TALLEYRAND, BENARTY, BRITISH COMMANDER and for laying mines off South Africa.
No prisoners on board, at time of TEDDY's capture. Survivors from AUTOMEDON understood they would be taken to Italian East Africa where prisoners had previously been sent.
Advised ATLANTIS stated ship had been at sea 13 months, had called at Amsterdam Island, was capable of 20 knots with foul bottom and had accurate news of shipping movements from world-wide German Agents.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0912Z/1 to Admty. etc.).

/ Overdue Ships, ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

Overdue Ships, Raider Intelligence.

Following ships now overdue in P N I.O Area and are presumed to have fallen into enemy hands.
(a) Ships unsuitable for use as supply or accommodation ships and probably sunk, CITY OF BAGDAD, KING CITY, BENARTY, COMMISSAIRE, RAMEL, DURMITOR.
(b) Ships suitable for use as supply or accommodation ships, TALLEYCAT (FILIPIZ ?) NORDVARD STORSTAD RINGWOOD.
(c) Suitable for conversion to raider TIRRANNA.
Lists do not include ships known or believed sunk. Masters are being warned to report sightings of above vessels.
(2 corrupt groups) raider described as 6,000 tons one raked funnel with 2 narrow white bands close to bridge two masts counter stern raked stem attacked shipping off Nauru.
Later report states raider accompanied vessel of 3,000 tons modern type Maier form bow cruiser stern two masts single straight funnel amid Apex presumably acting as tender to larger vessel, ship carried Japanese markings.
(C. of I.S., Singapore, 0927Z/1 to N.A. Tokyo).

Raiders, use of Marshall Islands.

Reports regarding possible use of Marshall Island as a refuelling base are substantiated by following known movements of raiders and suspected movements of German ships from Japan. German ship REGENSBERG left Yokohama 27/9, having draught 26 feet and cargo of fuel (fact). At 12 knots she could have arrived at Marshall Island on 7/10. Norwegian ship RINGWOOD was sunk in position 002° N. 167° E. on 15/10 by Raider NARVIK which could then have arrived at Marshall Island 17/10 and refuelled from REGENSBERG.
German ship REGENSBURG is known to have arrived at Yokohama 28/10 with draught of only 16 feet in which case, she must have left Marshall Island by 19/10. Raiders were not heard of again till British ship HOLMWOOD was sunk in position 44° S. 177° W. on 25/11 and British ship RANGITANE 37° S. 173 W. on 26/11, 3 raiders being present on both occasions. Raiders then sank British ship TRIONA 6/12 and Norwegian ship VINNI, British ships TRIADIC TRIASTER KOMATA 7/12, all off Nauru. On 8/12 two raiders and possibly three were sighted off Nauru. Raiders were reported by survivors from sunk ships to have arrived at Marshall Island 12/12 and departed 13/12. German ship ESSBERGER is known to have left Kobe 30/11 and returned 25/12. This would have

/ enabled her .

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

Raiders, Use of Marshall Islands. (Contd.)

This would have enabled her to have reached Marshall Island by 10/12 that is two days before arrival of raiders, and left again for Kobe 14/12 having refuelled raiders. Raiders are then reported to have proceeded near Nauru and thence to Emirau on 21/12. German ships from Japan now at sea are RHEINSBURG left Yokohama 20/12. A. ESSBERGER, left Kobe 29/12. The fact that two potential supply ships from Japan are now at sea suggest either an increase of raider activity in Pacific or a more distant refueiling base.
A report from resident commissioner Ocean Island that Japanese Authorities prohinit postal communication between Marshall and Gilbert Islands from 9/11 is significant.
(C.O.I.S., Singapore, 1002Z/1, to Ambassador, Tokyo).

ABERDARE HARROW

Your 0930/31, ABERDARE and HARROW are to be sailed to Alexandria as convenient to join Mediterranean Fleet.
(D.M.S. 1807/1 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

DESPATCH

~~82~~. My 1221 31 (Orders for DESPATCH). In view of visit of DESPATCH to Grand Cayman request reply by signal to A.W.I. No. 281/75/1 5th April 1940 regarding recruiting for R.N. in Grand Cayman.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 0954/1 to Admty.)

Intelligence, A.W.I. Station.

Your 1145/28. Appreciated that certain information asked for by S.O.(I) Jamaica may not be strictly within sphere of naval intelligence, but recent instructions received by this officer justify his request for certain reports. I have made representations to Admiralty with object of improving co-ordination and distribution of intelligence on this station, and hope a clearer demarcation of responsibility may result. For the present I would be grateful if Consul could comply with S.O.(I) Jamaica's request for reports. (C.in C. A.W.I. to Minister, Panama, 1252/1)
(note:- this message passed to Admiralty for information).

My 1511/11 and my 1252/26. Minister Panama's 1145/28 and my 1252/1 in reply thereto are being passed to you.
I feel that immediate steps on lines suggested in my 1511/11 should be taken both to improve co-ordination and distribution of intelligence and also to

relieve S.O.(I)..

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

relieve S.O.(I) from extra burden of collation of those security reports which do not come strictly within sphere of Naval Intelligence.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1302/1, to Admty.)

PRINCE ROBERT. N.S.O(I) Callao 1050/1. Resume patrol off Callao (N.S. Note. - Copy of this signal by cable has "Talcahuano" instead of "Callao") forthwith.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1423/1 to PRINCE ROBERT).

AURANIA, COMORIN, LACONIA. Halifax arrival Jan./1 AURANIA from B H X 99.
Departure COMORIN LACONIA ocean escort H X 100 to Sydney. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 1657/1).

Shipping Routes and Raiders. Your 0912/30 concur. Request you will promulgate necessary instructions to authorities in your command.
(D.T.D. 1905/1 to C.in C.A.W.I.).

U.S. Bases, Bermuda. Charges d'Affaires Washington Tel. 3317 of 30/12 to F.O. United States base requirements Bermuda for flying boats now differ entirely from Greenslade's proposals given in Governor Bermuda telegram 0266 of 2/11 to S. of S. for Colonies. Naval Attache informs me only reasons he can get out of Navy Department are (1) Unsuitability of Castle Harbour Area for flying boats. No details given. (2) Interference in army aircraft operations by Naval Aircraft in same area. As regards (1) I remain unconvinced in default of further technical reasons. As to (2) Good organization and use of a reasonable number of aircraft should get over this. Also under our proposals U.S. would have full use of air source from Morgan's Island in time of war, using additional depot craft as necessary.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 2301/1, to Admty.)

Australia.

ADELAIDE Arrived at Noumea 2100Z/29.
(N.B. Melbourne 0255Z/1).

Your 95172 1/1 Nodeco.
"ELBOW" ready embark not before 30/1.
(Army, Melbourne, 0255/1, to Troopers, London).

Raiders My 2000Z/29 Admiralty Reporting Officer Nauru reports that when MAIYO MARU attacked Nauru her armament was as follows (details)
(A.C.N.B. 1130Z/1 to Admty.)

/ Suspicious Vessels ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.1.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.).

Suspicious Vessels. Resident Ocean Island reports 2 vessels painted light grey two funnels two masts about 6000 tons passed North of Apaiang Gilbert group from West to East at 0001Z/29. Native reports. No markings national flag or other particulars available.
(S.O.I. Wellington, 2101Z/1, to Admty., etc.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PORTLAND,
FRANKFURT.

From Callao. Conception reports shipping statement issued by Customs for 600 tons Mineral concentrate for PORTLAND, 711 tons for FRANKFURT destination Germany. Customs Talcahuano instructed to permit Agents Wagner Chadwick Company export 1489 tons beans which will probably be transhipped to PORTLAND which ship undocked midday 30/12 and should have sufficient fuel for 14 days voyage. PRINCE ROBERT informed.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 0855/1.

ATLAS.

30/12, Departure ATLAS for Marseilles.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 1915/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BRITISH ZEAL (torpedoed 31/12).

Tanker, British, 8532 tons. Mombasa radio heard 500 kcs. QSAI 2345 G.M.T./31. "RRRR" BRITISH (unread) L 11 N. 2(unread) RRR. Faint whistle also heard. M S A Radio 2350 G.M.T./31.
(Colombo, 0059Z/1, to Admty.)

BRITISH ZEAL torpedoed 015 degs. 40' North 020 degs. 43' West re-boarded, still floating, engine working, requires immediate standby, crew safe.
(BRITISH ZEAL, No T.O.O./1 to Admty.)

BRITISH ZEAL torpedoed on 31/12 position now 015° 40' N. 020° 43' West report ship still afloat reboarded and engines working. Important to locate and ascertain general position if possible. Detach ENCOUNTER to locate and report situation but contact with Force K and convoy should not be unduly delayed. Trawlers can arrive position about January 4 and remain three days. If draught can be brought below 26 feet ship could get into Bathurst. Dutch Tug HUDSON leave Freetown tonight for position speed nine knots.
(C.in C. S.A., 1901N/1 to ISIS).

My 1901/1. Tug HUDSON (Call Sign etc.).
(C.in C. S.A. 1922/1 to ISIS, S.O. FORCE K and ENCOUNTER).

Submarines Reported.

Following bearing intercepged at 1627/31. Mauritius 093/1.
(D.D.I.C. 0752/1 to C.in C. S.A., etc.).

My 1638/31. (Position of Submarine). If nothing seen and not in contact by noon 1/1/41 return to Liverpool.
(C.in C. W.A. 1040/1 to WINCHELSEA, GENTIAN, RHODODENDRON.

One S/M identity unknown in position 54.25 N., 15.00 W. 2500. (A/C Aldergrove 1815/1).

Aircraft report U boat in position 054 degs 25' N. 015 degs 00' W. at 1815.
(C.in C. W.A., 1910/1 to AMBUSCADE, etc.)

/ Estimated U-Boat dispositions ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.

Italian.
1 or 2 to E. or N.E. Azores.
1 may enter Gironde tonight.
4 between 54 degs. 30 mins. North and 56 degs. 30 mins. North 14 degs. 30 mins. West and 16 degs. West.
2 more may be in same area or proceeding towards Gironde.

German.
1 was in 15 degs. 43 mins. North 20 degs. 24 mins. West at 2312/31 working Northward.
1 may be South of Ireland outward bound.
3 between 57 degs. North and 60 degs. North and near or West of 20 degs. West, of which 1 was about 58 degs. North 21 degs. 30 mins. West at 0208/1.
1 was in 58 degs. 40 mins. North 17 degs. 50 mins. West at 1612/31.
1 in southern half of N. Sea homeward.

Possibly 1 vaguely between Rockall and Bloody Foreland.
(D.D.I.C. 1324/1).

Submarines Attacked.

Mediterranean.

A/S Trawler JADE carried out 2 attacks on ASDIC contact 4 miles off entrance Grande Harbour in 70 fathoms at 1120/29. 5 Ratings claim they saw the bows of a U Boat break the surface after second attack but this was not confirmed from bridge. No oil or wreckage observed. At 1630 PARTHIAN reported bubbles as from a submarine about 5 miles S.E. of original attack. No contact could be obtained by searching trawlers, and there were no further developments. Consider it a possible.
(V.A. Malta, 1215/1 to C.in C. Med.).

Eires

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.1.41.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

B.C.S.1. in HOOD, escorted by 4 Destroyers, left Scapa at 1600 today to act as a Covering Force for minelaying operations off the Faroes.

Four H.E. Bombs were dropped in Dublin last night, causing damage and casualties but no loss of life; and H.E. and incendiary bombs were also dropped in various parts of Eire, 3 persons being killed and 2 seriously injured near Borris in County Carlow.

British Air Activity

3 of the standard Air Patrols in the Rosyth Area were flown this afternoon; and a new Patrol of the Moray Firth Area to be flown during daylight hours has been ordered. Submarines at Lorient and Bordeaux and the Train Ferries at Flushing were attacked last night by our Bombers.

Enemy Air Activity

The even-numbered F.N. Convoy was shadowed by one aircraft at 1345 today off Foulness, and the odd-numbered F.N. Convoy at 1702 off the Humber; but neither Convoy was attacked.

Mining

R.A.M.L. with the 1st M/L Squadron and 3 Destroyers left Port Z.A. at 0915 this morning for a minelaying operation off the Faroe Islands, and at 0800 C.S. 2 in ARETHUSA with AURORA, 4 Destroyers, left Scapa with INTREPID and ICARUS for a similar operation off the Norwegian Coast.

/The minelaying...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.1.1941
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

The minelaying operation off Milford Haven was completed by ADVENTURE by 2210 tonight The port of Tees, which had been closed since 2019 yesterday, was re-opened at 1500 today; and Liverpool, which had also been closed, was re-opened at 1211 today.

Vichy French

Operation "Ration"

Capt. (D) 13, who intercepted a French convoy of 4 ships yesterday, states that the escort would not allow officer to board. The ships did not obey orders to scuttle and all were boarded. SALLY MÆRSK hoisted the Free French flag and subsequently the Red Ensign, and the other ships were friendly except CHANTILLY (in which certain casualties occurred)

The French Admiralty has demanded the release of the ships "to avoid very serious consequences" Meanwhile the Admiralty have instructed F.O.C.N.A. that Operation "Ration" is to be continued.

North Atlantic

Marine casualties are reported to 3 ships of Convoy W.S. 5 A at Gibraltar in a heavy S.W. gale last night. NORTHERN PRINCE, one of the M.T. ships, cannot be ready by the time appointed for her to leave, as she must be docked.

Weather prohibited flying operations today, except for a Glenn Martin reconnaissance of Gibraltar in the afternoon.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.1.41.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

U-Boats

C. in C., South Atlantic has been asked for an opinion as to what base U-Boats are working from in the Freetown area.

Enemy Unit

D/F bearings at 1916Z/2 indicated a German surface ship between 05° N., and 05° S., 12° and 18° W., (probably 550' S.S.W. of Freetown) NEPTUNE is to search the vicinity and HAWKINS to leave Freetown to search adjoining areas.

Mediterranean

Tripoli Bombed

10 R.A.F. Wellingtons dropped 18½ tons of bombs on the harbour and shipping at Tripoli last night, following an air reconnaissance report that 3 cruisers, 4 destroyers and 20 merchant ships were there. It is believed much damage was caused.

3 Wellingtons and 2 Bombays continued attacks during the night on Bardia where a cargo ship and gunboat were observed and 3 destroyers entering harbour. 44 Blenheims kept up a sustained bombing during today.

Valona

As enemy units are probably leaving Valona and making for Taranto, TETRARCH (submarine) is to proceed if practicable to the northernmost part of her area (She has been patrolling in the Gulf of Taranto)

East Indies

COLOMBO has been ordered to patrol off Kismayu.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2. 1. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

HOOD. Admiralty 1547/1. I consider any further delay in restoring HOOD to her full power is not acceptable. Propose therefore HOOD's refit be proceeded with on 15th January. NELSON's docking can be postponed. (C. in C. H.F. 1023/2 to Adty.)

[redacted]. Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/2. (D.C. 1201/2.) At 2330/2 (D.C. 2330/2.)

Movements.

CURACOA. Arrived Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 0044/2.)

EDINBURGH. Sailed from Scapa 1000/2. (F.O.C.O.S. 1031/2.)

KASHMIR, JUPITER. Your 1624/1. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1035/2.)

NAIAD. Sailed from Scapa 0958/2. (A.C.O.S. 1045/2.)

WHITSHED. Arrived Scapa 1708/1. (A.C.O.S.1139/2.)

CALIFORNIA. KENYA, ARGUS. Your 1938/1. Propose CALIFORNIA join KENYA and ARGUS in R/V. Z. at 1000/10, B.S.T. for inward escort to Clyde. (F.O.C.N.P. 1140/2. to Adty.)

SOMALI. Sailed from Scapa 1530 for Rosyth. (A.C.O.S. 1553/2.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1554/2.)

HOLDERNESS. Arrived Sheerness 1500/2. (C. in C. Nore 1608/2.)

HOOD/

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2. 1. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

HOOD.
ECHO.
ELECTRA.
JAVELIN.
KELLIHO.

Sailed Scapa 1623/2. (A.C.C.S. 1623/2.)

HAMPORT.

Sailed for Plymouth. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1635/2.) Adjust speed to arrive Rame Head at 1830/4. (C. in C. W.A. 1918/2 to HAMPORT.)

STANLEY.

Arrived Plymouth 1646 (C. in C. W.A. 1920/2.)

KIPLING.

Sailed Plymouth 1106. Arrived Plymouth 1645 (C. in C. W.A. 0036/3.)

Operations.

MINNIE DE LARRINAGA.

My 1115/1 and C. in C. Nore 1505/1. It is essential that ship should arrive at Dover with an anchor. (V.A.Dover 1130/2 to Adty.) Following programme proposed. Arrive off Dover 0100/3. (F.O.I.C. London 1630/2 to C. in C. Nore.) Your 1630/2. approved. (C. in C. Nore 2020/2.)

OTTAWA.
GARLAND.

On passage to Clyde, Ships pass through area between 54° and 56° N., 14° and 16° W. where Italian U-Boats are operating. (C. in C. W.A. 1511/2. to OTTAWA.)

Submarines.

SEVERN.

Your 2016/1. Concur. Request you provide suitable escort.(V.A.S. 1156/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

TUNA.

Arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1338/2.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/3. (V.A.S. 1627/2.)

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1735/2.)

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War Diary.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Ordered for today: STAB., BERT, STAND, HORNLI, UNST, FAIR. (C. in C. Rosyth 0720/2. HORNLI cancelled owing to weather (C. in C. Rosyth 1042/2.) STAB., BERT, STAND flown P.M. Visibility maximum. No ships sighted. (C. in C. Rosyth 2022/2)

Patrol IFOP. My 0002/1. Add following Patrol IFOP to be flown daily by Dyce during daylight. (C. in C. Rosyth 2040/2.)

Enemy Air Activity.

F.W. Even Convoy. Being shadowed by one A/C in 51° 36' N. 1° 12' E. (LONDONDERRY 1345/2.)

F.W. Odd Convoy. Being shadowed by one A/C in 53° 27' N. 0° 39' E. (VIMIERA 1702/2.)

Lowestoft. Damage by Bomb at 0615/31. Estimate £20. (Worms, Shotley 1850/2.)

Eire. During Night 1/2, four H.E. Bombs were dropped in Dublin causing damage and casualties but no loss of life; and H.E. and Incendiary Bombs were dropped in various parts of the country, 3 persons being killed and 2 seriously injured near Borris, County Carlow. Magnetic Mines were also dropped with parachutes from A/C during Night 2/3 at Glen Cormack, near Enniskerry. (Times, 3/1.)

Mining.

Shipwash Area. In view of report of unknown vessels off Shipwash 4 Fleet Minesweepers will sweep Channel before arrival of F.S.76. If practicable reduce speed so as not to arrive Aldeburgh before 0900. (C. in C. Nore 0110/2 to VANITY, WESTMINSTER.)

TEES. HARTLEPOOL. } Port of Tees closed. Hartlepool open. (C. in C. Rosyth 0755/2.) Tees open. Precautions. (H.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1500/2 to Adty.)

Operation. D.K. Sailed from Scapa C.S.2 in ARETHUSA with AURORA, MASHONA, MATABELE, BEDOUIN, TARTAR, INTREPID, ICARUS. (A.C.C.S.2.0800/2.

Liverpool/

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. Contd.

Liverpool. Port closed. Keep to seaward of 20-fathom line. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0850/2 to RHODODENDRON, WHITEHALL and 0926/2 to Adty.) All swept channels and channel lights extinguished. Do not enter 035.120 except in daylight. Precautions. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1146/2 to WINCHELSEA, VANQUISHER, GENTIAN.) Port re-opened (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1211/2.)

S.N.6. and S.N.60. Sailed Port E.A. at 0915/2, RAML in SOUTHERN PRINCE with MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, DOUGLAS, KEPPEL, and OURAGAN. (TRELAWNEY 0917/2 to Adty.)

Intend to leave Scapa in HOOD with four destroyers at 1600 today and proceed by channel "C" thence following track of R.A.M.L. Speed of advance 16 knots, keeping to southwestward during darkness and making contact about 1000/3 near 61° 25' N. 03° 00'W. Intend to remain in vicinity of minelayers during operations. (B.C.I. 1121/2. to C. in C. H.F.)

Sailed Scapa 1600 F.O.C. 1st. B.C.S. in HOOD, escorted by ECHO, ELECTRA, SIKH, and ESKIMO (A.C.O.S. 1623/2.)

Z.M.E.10. ADVENTURE left Milford Haven 1800. (V.A.S. 1951/2 to SEAWOLF) Operation completed. (ADVENTURE 2210/2 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ, SEYDLITZ. Positions on 1/1. (D.D.I.C. 1643/2.)

Brest. R/C. at 1800/2. (P.I.U. St. Eval 1700/2.)

Boulogne. R/C. at 1515/2. (P.R.U. Benson 2135/2.)

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BROCK. My 1701/29. Delayed at Tilbury by defect in main circulator. Completion in about 3 days. (F.O.I.C. London 1350/2 to Adty.)

OPORTO. (British, 3352 Tons.) Struck rock in Approaches, Iceland. Leaking. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1710/2 to Adty.)

NEWPORT. Turbine and steering-gear defective. Will require Tug on arrival at Plymouth about 0800/4. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1635/3 to C. in C. W.A.) Position 51° 58'N. 5° 58'W. Other engine rapidly becoming defective. (NEWPORT 0600/3.) Arrived with defects (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1052/3.) Port turbine stripped and starboard defective. Can be repaired in 48 hours to reach a Bristol Channel Port. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1440/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Shipping.

Convoys.

H.X.100.	Sailing telegram. 1330 A.S.T./1. Escorts COMORIN, B.H.X, MONTCLARE. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1002/2). (S.N.O. Halifax 1007/2.) Ships containing munitions. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1016/2.)
H.X.98.	Sailing telegram. 1200 G.M.T./2. Route Escort LACONIA from Sydney. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1030/2 1032/2.) Ships with W/T receivers sealed. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1034/2.)
S.C.18.	Sailing telegram. 1100 A.S.T./2. Route. (C.O.A.C. Halifax. 1401/2.)
S.C.17.	Route from R/V. (D.T.D. 1422/2.)
W.N.65.(O).	1330/2. 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1427/2.
F.N.74.	Returned to Southend (weather). (C. in C. Nore, 1507/2.) Cancel my 1216/2. F.N.74 returned. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1549/2.)
F.S.77.	Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1514/2.)
E.N.51.	1830/2. Escorts, H.M.T's RUMBA, SAL TERELLO. Additional escort JASON. 25 ships, 11 overseas. Codes - E.N.51 Usage, E.N.L. portion Monitor, ENO portion mixture. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1555/2)
O.G.49.	Route. (D.T.D., 1631/2.)
F.N.72.	Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1708/2.)
H.X.99.	Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D.,1737/2.)
C.B.M.269.	Sailed 1755/2. ROSEMARY and YORK CITY. Seven. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1802/2.)

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.

O.B.M.270. 1650/4. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. Four.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1002/2.)

S.L.61. (Date and Route.) Escort BULOLO. (D.T.D. 1858/2.)

S.L.61. (Date and Route.) Unescorted. (D.T.D. 1859/2.)

C.E.21. To sail from St. Helens 4/1. To proceed by normal route to Folkestone Date. Later route. (C. in C. Nore 0936/2.)

O.B.268. Londonderry departure 2/1 VETERAN for (N.C.O.I.C. Londonderry. 0951/2.)

F.S.76. Harwich. Departure HOLDERNESS at 0959/2. to join F.S.76.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1001/2.)

F.S.80. My 1017/27/12. Escort for F.S. Convoy SO will be VERSATILE and GARTH. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1156/2.)

H.N.51.
W.N.64. Act as additional escort to H N 51 sailing at 1830/3. On meeting transfer to W.N.64 due Cape Wrath 0400/5 and Duncansby 1450/5. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1141/2. to JASON.)

S.L.S.59. S. L. S. 59 Meet.(C. in C. N. A. 1040/2, to AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, HEARTSEASE. HOLLYHOCK, MARGUERITE, LADY LILLIAN.

H.X.97. Your 1914/16/12/40. H.X.97 ANY LENGTH VENETIA arrived vicinity Horsey.
(N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1666/2.)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.

F.N.74. Commodore of Convoy considers ships in ballast would be unmanageable at sea in present weather and has ordered convoy to return to harbour.(LONDONDERRY, 1400/2 to C. in C. Nore.)

F.N.74(Fast). F.N.75.(Slow.) F.N.75. My 1507/2. Intend to sail FN 74 (Fast) escorts LONDONDERRY and HASTINGS 0900/3, and FN 75 (slow) escorts VANITY and WESTMINSTER immediately after FN 75. (C. in C. Nore 1700/2 to C. in C. Rosyth and N.C.S.O. Southend.)

F.N.74. F.N.76. My 1017/27/12 and my 1255/1, F N 74 postponed 24 hours. Cancel reference to exchange by HASTINGS and WOLFHOUND. Amend escorts for F N 76 to read EGRET and WOLFHOUND.(C. in C. Rosyth 1758/2.)

E.N.51. Provided trials are satisfactory KIRRIEMOOR loaded with boom stores is to sail in E N 51 leaving Methil 1830/3 for Oban. N. C. S. O. Oban is requested to sail KIRRIEMOOR in convoy for Sierra Leone and onward passage to Mediterranean. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1843/2.)

KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE H.G. 49. My 1640/26/12/40. A/S Trawler KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE sailed with Convoy H.G.49 and on arrival is to be taken in hand for refit. (D.A/S.W. 1902/2 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

O.B.270. Admty 1808/1. Intend sailing SURPRISE as additional A/S escort for O.B.270, leaving Clyde 5/1 and parting company in 54° 00' N. 25° 00' W. to proceed to Freetown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2125/2. to C. in C.S.A.)

S.L.61. Casualties. S.L.61 and S L 61. ROMESIDE and NEVADA two delayed by machinery defects. VANCOUVER unable to provision (? in time). Greek HYDROUSSA too slow for Convoy. (?Dutch) SPRINGFONTEIN gutted by fire and beached in Sierra Leone River. BRITISH PREMIER, CITY OF CHRISTIANIA, CHULMLEIGH, MARYLYN, CLAN MURDOCH, did not arrive in time. My 1851/1 cargo Swedish MILOS is maize and not iron.(N.C.S.O.Freetown, 1052/2 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

2. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. Contd.

F.N.74 (Fast).
F.N.75 (Slow).

My 1507/2, intend to sail F.N.74(Fast) escorts LONDONDERRY and HASTINGS at 0900/2, and F N 75 (slow) escorts VANITY and WESTMINSTER immediately after F.N.74.(C. in C. Nore, 1700/2 to C. in C. Rosyth, N.C.S.O, Southend.)

Convoys.
Individual
Routes
Discontinued.

Ref. C.B. 04024 para. 62 (II), the system of giving ships in ocean convoys different individual routes, based on a standard route, in case of separation from the convoy is to be discontinued. In future all ships in any one ocean convoy, irrespective of port of assembly, are to be given the same standard route to follow in case of separation, and this route should not depart from the convoy route by more then 30 miles on either side.(D.T.D., 2331/2 to N.C.S.O.'s.

Troop Convoys.
W.S.5.B.

Convoy W.S.5 (B) will leave U.K. on 7/1 Fighter Protection code word allotted is OLIVE. The following signals have been passed to you in connection with the movements. Admiralty's 2350/23/12, 2340/31/12 and 2341/31/12. D.O.D.(H) 1304/2 to Air Ministry.

W.S.5.B.

ARAWA should, if possible, be sailed with convoy W S 5B until clear of U Boat zone with instructions subsequently to proceed so as to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1025/2.(D.O.D. (H) 2351/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

W.S.5.B.

Your 1119/29. Re PENNLAND. One boiler internally cleaned, all others cleaned externally only. Speed of 15 knots can be maintained. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1040/2, to D. of S.T.)

Troop Convoys.
LEOPOLDVILLE.

My 1113/30/12/40. LEOPOLDVILLE sails St. John New Brunswick p.m. 4.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1752/2, to D. of S.S.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Operation "Ration" CHANTILLY casualties.

Your 0205/2.(Presumably 2359/1) Death apparently caused by ricocheting from 8 ships machine gun rounds fired into water when boarding was resisted at first. (JAGUAR 0205/2 to Adty).

Convoy lost touch in heavy weather.

My 2252/1 and your 2001/1 to Contraband Control Service. Destroyer lost touch with 3 of French ships in heavy weather and low visibility during night. DUNCAN in company CHANTILLY 2 additional destroyers have sailed to assist in search, weather unsuitable for air reconnaissance. Western gale moderate and hope to berth CHANTILLY p.m. today. CHANTILLY has 500 passengers on board and no food as ship only provisioned to Oran. Sick and wounded in CHANTILLY in urgent need of hospital treatment.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1106/2 to Adty).

Escort Hostile.

My 1610/1 and my 1106/2. Captain (D) 13 reports escort received informatory letter but would not allow Officer to board. Ships did not obey orders to scuttle and all were boarded. SALLY MARSK hoisted Free French Flag and subsequently Red Ensign other ships friendly except CHANTILLY. situation in latter now satisfactory.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1210/2 to Adty).

"Ration" to continue.

My 1916/1. Operation RATION is to be continued.
(V.C.N.S. 1215/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French Informed.

S.S. CHANTILLY one of French convoy intercepted by our patrol east of Gibraltar, resisted boarding party. A few machine gun rounds fired into water unfortunately recochetted on the the ship and killed Tarte and daughter aged 12, wounding certain others. Please at once inform your French colleague and ask him to convey immediately to Vichy our profound regret at this misfortune, but you should emphasise that it arose out of unjustifiable resistance to a perfectly legitimate operation.
(V.C.N.S. 1241/2 to N.A.Madrid amended 0027/4).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Contd.)

JAGUAR asked for report.

Your 0205/2. Request immediate report on full circumstances under which resistance was offered to armed guard, in particular.
(1) What form did resistance take.
(2) Did French open fire, if so in what manner and did they open fire first?
(V.C.N.S. 1242/2 to JAGUAR.)

Your 1242/2. Order to lower ladder given six times finally under threat of opening fire. Decks crowded with naval military and civilians possibly armed. Warned of scuttling intentions. Armed guard physically obstructed ascending Ladder. Frequent repeated requests and orders obeyed grudgingly but nothing more than physical obstruction offered. Burst of machine gun fire was ordered into water on safe bearing but was accidentally fired towards ship causing casualties. Doctor sent. Boarding party not yet returned.
(JAGUAR 1612/2 to Adty).

French Demand.

French N.A. informs me that he has received urgent telegram from Vichy translation of which reads as follows (Begins)
3 French merchant vessels and 1 Danish taken over by French going eastward in convoy with escort have been attacked off Cape Tres Forcas at 1100/1 and taken to Gibraltar. French Admiralty demand that these vessels be released with shortest delay if it is desired to avoid very serious consequences. (Ends). French N.A. asks me inform you that such incidents make Petain's position most difficult. H.M. Ambassador informed, repeated Gibraltar.
(A.N.A. Madrid, 1353/2 to Adty).

Dakar Intelligence.

Following received from Navy Dept: From Dakar 30/12 departures. CHAMPOLLION for Casablanca. VILLE DE STRASBURG for Madagascar.
(N.A.Washington 1809/2 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 2.1.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Submarine Report. By Ponta Delgada at 1400 G.M.T./2. (See U/Boat Campaign.)

DERBYSHIRE. Weather unsuitable for entering harbour. Remain to the Westward of Gibraltar. BONAVENTURE and destroyer with captured French M.V's are also at sea to the eastward. (F.O.C.N.A. 0934/2 to DERBYSHIRE).

Gibraltar arrival 1000/2 DERBYSHIRE. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1052/2).

W.S.5.A. Marine casualties. Owing to heavy South-West gale last night NORTHERN PRINCE and CLAN MCDONALD parted their cables, former drove ashore in vicinity of destroyer trot, sustained damage to hull and steering gear, extent of damage cannot be ascertained until weather moderates. AUK also driven ashore near La Linea. No damage to CLAN MACDONALD. (F.O.C.N.A. 1144/2 to Adty).

NORTHERN PRINCE. damage. F.O.C.N.A. 1144/2. NORTHERN PRINCE cannot be ready 7/1. Date depends on arrival of spares from U.K. and result of examination after docking. (S.O.Force H, 2236/2 to C.in C. Med.)

ARK ROYAL defects. My 1232/10/12 and my 1521/13/12. Boiler has been steamed for 58 hours. L.H.superheater carrier rail is now still further displaced and element is such that whether under steam or not and irrespective of any shock from bombing etc., there is liklehood of element dropping, in chich case withdrawal for repairs will be difficult and might risk dropping hoop. No spare hook is carried. Request information when material referred to in Admiralty's 0726/12 may be expected. (S.O. Force H, 1259/2 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

2.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Raider Action. 25/12.

Following brief report of action with enemy unit by escort of convoy W.S.5.A. on 25/12 based on report from BERWICK and BONAVENTURE.

(a) Convoy was ?zigzagging 154° 10 knots. Wind from 135° force 6. Sea 35. Visibility bad and very patchy varying from one to seven miles. BERWICK stationed three miles ahead and BONAVENTURE on starboard beam of convoy.

(b) Raider steering 100° closed starboard bow convoy and engaged EMPIRE TROOPER just before sunrise. BERWICK opened fire on bearing 290° range 060.

(c) Immediately BERWICK opened fire raider turned away to starboard and retired at high speed on course 290°. BERWICK and BONAVENTURE gave chase on raider's port and starboard quarter respectively.

(d) Due to bad variable visibility certain identification was impossible but enemy thought to be HIPPER class.

(e) Enemy engaged BERWICK most, only firing few salvoes at BONAVENTURE who was not hit.

(f) Smoke, not from smokescreen, coming from enemy's quarter deck after 6 minutes and one definite hit after 26 minutes at range of 168 observed by BERWICK.

(g) BERWICK in action intermittently for 33 minutes before enemy finally lost at range of 170.

(h) BONAVENTURE in action for 24 minutes during which she fired 438 rounds mostly in blind ladders as only (corrupt group) (Possibly signification "shorts") could be spotted. No definite hit observed. No breakdown experienced.
(S.O.Force H. 1352/2 to Adty).

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. Weather unfit for flying.
(200 Group 1750/2).

SIVA. ashore.

British ship SIVA in ballast driven ashore 2345/1 by violent gale about 10 miles North of Espichel. Crew safe. Taking all steps to salvage if possible. Requests Ministry of shipping and owners Salvesen Grangemouth may be informed. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1846/2 to Admiralty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 2.1.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

OLYMPUS. Gibraltar departure 1830/2 OLYMPUS in accordance with Captain (S) 8's 1144/1 and for Portsmouth.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1854/2 to Adty).

ENTERPRISE. Am proceeding in compliance with C.in C. S.A's 1019N/1. Expected time of arrival 13/1.
(ENTERPRISE 0046/2 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Base of U/Boats. Have you formed any opinion as to what base U/Boats operating in the Freetown area work from?
(1st S.L. 0250/2 to C.in C. S.A.) Reply.
C.in C. S.A. 1855/3.

LARGS BAY. British ship LARGS BAY with 148 service personnel for Durban and U.K. due Durban 2/1. Request Naval Authorities of stations through which ship will pass be given instructions of future movements.
(A.C.N.B. Melbourne 0845Z/2 to C.in C. S.A.)

ROTHLEY. Overdue shipping. My 0941/31. British ship ROTHLEY arrived Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1001B/2 to Adty etc.)

ARAWA. N.O.I.C. Belfast's 1607/1 (D.G.Range swinging of ARAWA). ARAWA is required at Freetown (date) for convoy escort. Request if possible sailing be expedited accordingly.
(C.in C. S.A. 1025N/2 to Adty).

SAINT GOBAIN. Overdue shipping my 1115/1. Swedish ship SAINT GOBAIN arrived Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1015B/2).

TRIBESMAN. Overdue shipping my 1005/20/12. Have you any news of British Merchant ship TRIBESMAN?
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1150B/2 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

Following is repetition of my 1558Z/18. My intention is to send you to Falkland Is. to fuel and store up 15/1/41. I then want you to visit Deception Island South Shetlands to destroy disused but filled oil tanks and coal dumps to deny use to raiders. Please inform me if you consider this impracticable with QUEEN OF BERMUDA.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1132Z/2 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

DEVONSHIRE.

DEVONSHIRE after carrying out H.A. practice in Bay False sailed 1240/2. for St. Helena in accordance with your 1151/1. Speed of advance 18 knots E.T.A. 1200/6.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1243Z/2 to C.in C.S.A.)

A/C Transport.

Your 1144/21/12. Arrangements will be made for DELHI to embark items specified.
(C.in C. S.A. 1431/2 to Adty).

Enemy Unit.

D/F Bearings at 1916Z/2 indicate a German surface ship between 005° north and 005° south and between 012° and 018° West. Reliability 70%. Probable position 001° North 014° West.
(C.in C. S.A. 2131N/2 to South Atlantic Station

Orders to NEPTUNE, HAWKINS, PRETORIA CASTLE.

D/F bearings 1916/2 indicate enemy surface vessel between 005° N., and 005° S., 012° W., and 018° W. Probable position 001° N., 014° W. NEPTUNE proceed and search vicinity moving into I 35 C and D HAWKINS to proceed from Freetown search H 35 C and D, moving into I 35 A and B. PRETORIA CASTLE operate in J 35 B and J 36 A. HAWKINS to arrive Freetown A.M./7.
(C.in C. S.A. 2305B/2 to NEPTUNE, HAWKINS).

MOST SECRET.

2.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air Operations. List of targets which appear specially suitable for bombing attacks from Malta.
(C.in C. Med., 1705/2 to A.O.C. Med.)
See Med. Vol.

Air Attack Tripoli. Special Operational Summary. On receipt Glenn Martin report of 3 cruisers 4 destroyers 20 M/V's in Tripoli harbour, 10 Wellingtons 148 Squadron despatched to attack this target same night 1/2 January. Aircraft carried out individual attacks between 10,000 and 4,000 feet and were over target from 17.15 to 19.00, first 5 Wellingtons each carrying 4 250 lbs SAP were directed against shipping. 5 sticks straddled S.E. Mile scoring on Mole and on or near 3 cruisers lying there also several burst near seaplane hangars where fired started. 2 sticks hit Customs jetty another stick fell parallel main Mole, 1 bomb hitting either Mole or ship in N.E. corner, 1 aircraft released gear failed temporarily but eventually jettisoned total load into harbour amongst concentration smaller ships at anchor in S.W. of harbour. Second 5 Wellingtons each carrying 4000 lbs GP and 240 lbs. incendiaries directed against port facilities and power station. 4 sticks straddled power station 1 bursting in N.E. corner, others near. 6 sticks fell on or near Customs jetty resulting in 5 fires and 2 green explosions latter possibly coming from shipping alongside. Several hits on seaplane hangars, explosions followed and fires started and increased. 2 sticks fell across harbour from entrance to Customs jetty scoring on 2 large M/V's and possibly third smaller resulting in heavy smoke.
2 aircraft reported fired visible in target area 60 miles on return journey. 2 ships seen leaving Tripoli harbour east, 3 more observed off Zanzur 10 miles west Tripoli further 230 and 150 miles North Tripoli, latter burning lights. Attack comprised 27 closely spaced sticks of bombs totalling 18 and a ½ tons.
All aircraft returned undamaged.
(M.Q. Med. 0915/2).

French Lorries. Your 1/32083 of 25/12, para.1. You are authorised to inquire through Consul General Beirut whether Syrian authorities are ready to dispose of any lorries and if so what they would require in return.
(War Office, 0925/2 to C.in C. M.E.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.1.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operations, Western Desert, 19/12-31/12.

My 1207/19/12. Summary of operations of Western Desert 19th-31st December. 19th Div. Destroyers TERROR, APHIS and LADYBIRD provided cover for passage and unloading of supply ships running from Alexandria to Gulf of Sollum.

Evacuation of prisoners from Mersa Matruh completed. Total 18,136.

2. Military units had so outrun their communications that they could not clearly state their requirements until 27/12. meanwhile Ad Hoc arrangements commencing with arrival of PROTECTOR on 18/12 kept them going.

3. Water situation critical until 23/12 when water barges which had been weather bound at Mersa Matruh arrived Gulf of Sollum. Until then PROTECTOR landed water and gunboats pumped ashore from TERROR, FIONA CHAKLA and Petrol Carrier PETRELLA just sufficient to keep Army supplied. After 23rd storage ashore was increased and with barges working from MYRIEL situation improved. Now landing 365 tons daily; daily expenditure 200 tons Total of 3250 tons landed up to 31st/12.

4. Army are providing stores etc., by road but additional supplies by sea are and will remain essential. 700 tons Petrol and 630 tons of provisions and ammunition supplied by sea up to 31/12.

5. Shortage of lighters and labour for handling stores ashore limited quantity disembarked in early stages but situation now improved. Cypriots employed as labour gang demoralized by Air Raids and Shelling. 2 Jaffa tugs and 10 Jaffa lighters disembarked from CINGALESE PRINCE on the night of 27/12.

6. APHIS bombarded Bardia night of 18/12. Enemy very alert and employed mobile artillery. TERROR bombarded morning of 28/12.

/7.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.1.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operations, Western Desert 19/12-31/12- Contd.

7. Enemy running through to Bardia by night in Motor Schooners (200 to 300 tons) from Tobruk. WATERHEN sank one on night of 26th, VOYAGER captured one on night of 29th, thereby rescuing 8 Military British Prisoners of war being taken to Tobruk; DAINTY captured 2 on night of 31st.

8. Several torpedo bomber attacks at dawn and dusk on ships in Sollum roadstead. No hits. One torpedo bomber believed shot down. H.L.B. and M.L.B. attacked by sea until 25/12 when army A.A. guns were in action. Bombers recently escorted by strong fighter forces. 202 group providing Fighter Patrol but these cannot be maintained continuously owing to shortage of Fighter aircraft. Present situation acceptable and losses being inflicted on Enemy aircraft. One X lighter has been hit but serviceable as a Dumb Lighter. 3 hits on Pier had little effect. CHAKLA slightly damaged by near misses. 15 killed ashore including one naval rating in raid on 24th/12

9. Intermittent shelling of Sollum by shore artillery since 18/12, causing slight inconvenience. Counter battery measures in hand. This and aircraft attacks have tended to delay unloading.

10. M A/A Boats 02 and 03 armed with captured Breda guns arrived to operate in Sollum area 1/1.

(C. in C., Med., 1531/2 to Admty., by cable, recd. 1345/7)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Flashless Powder.

Your 2153/1. Italians are not using Flashless propellent at Bardia.
(C.in C. Med. 1047/2 to Adty).

Greece, need for lorries, proposed barter.

In continuation of Middle East telegram I/32083 of 25/12 December 25th need for lorries in (Greece) immediately is of outstanding importance to enable army to be maintained on ever lengthening L. of C. Local information is that deal could be arranged not through Syrian authorities but through Underground bankers organisation whereby lorries from Syria could be exported to Turkey and Palestine in exchange for commodities such as coal, rice sugar, gunny bag all required by civil population. They would also like to include M.T. petrol. Greeks are prepared to send ships to Turkey or Palestine to transport M.T. Request authority to make immediate deal on above line for anything up to 1,000 lorries leaving us responsibility of ensuring adequate arrangements to cover points indicated in para.2 of F.O. 1623 of 24/12.
(C.in C. M.E. 1100/2 to W.O.)

Air Report Tobruk, Bardia.

Cargo ship and gun boat observed in Tobruk Harbour and 3 destroyers entering harbour night 1/2 Jan. Two Wellingtons bombed Bardia results being unobserved. No change in military situation Bardia.

2. Greece. Day 1/1/41 4 Blenheims abandoned raid on Tepelini owing to extremely bad weather.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1147/2).

STAGPOOL.

Your 0602/29. There is likely to be an urgent need for STAGPOOL in connection with Libyan operation(s). I would be grateful if she could be sailed for Mediterranean as soon as possible.
(C.in C. Med. 1201/2 to C.in C. E.I.)

Mines for Greece.

Your 1401/22. No narrow gauge mines are available to supply to Greece. No objection to your supplying Greece with 100 MK XIV mines from stocks at Malta if Greeks can use them.

/B.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 2.1.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Mines for Greece. (Contd.)

B. Alternatively, if you are satisfied as to accurate positioning of existing Greek minefield, you might be prepared to use RORQUAL to back up this minefield with Mk XVI mines.
(Hd. of M. 2000/2 to C.in C. Med.)

Transport to Albania.

Your Tel: No. 1803/1. Original source British Consul Split but subsequently Yugoslavia Ministry of Foreign affairs have admitted traffic taking place though on small and purely private nature.
(Asst. N.A. Belgrade. T.H.I. 2100/2 to Adty).

TETRARCH.

Indications are that enemy untis are leaving Valona and may be making for Taranto. Proceed if practicable to northernmost part of your area.
(Capt: S.1. 2307/2 to TETRARCH).

East Indies.

CORNWALLIS.

Bombay arrival 2/0347Z.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0353Z/2).

Aden Movements.

Departures 0235Z/2 KIMBERLEY, FLAMINGO, HINDUSTAN, AMBER and Aden ships to join B.N.12.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 0242/2).

CARTHAGE ANTENOR.

Colombo arrival 0148Z/2 CARTHAGE departure 0410Z/2 ANTENOR.
(S.O.(I) Colombo 0438Z/2).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

RANCHI. My 0702/30/12. On arrival in position (a) 022° S., 040° E. RANCHI to proceed to position (b) 030° S., 034° E. (? .) then to proceed from position B to A and back until further orders.
(C.in C. E.I. 0806Z/2 to RANCHI).

LEANDER. Arrival 0400Z/2. LEANER departure 1000Z to join BN.12.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1001Z/2).

Suspicious Ship. 17/12. Master British Ship BAHARISTAN reported at 1245Z/17 in 012 degs. 52 mins North 065 degs. 02 mins. East sighting strange ship similar to Italian MONCALIERI (No.59 O.U. 6329 (2)) full load, steering 122 degs. and altering course to 180 degs. Black hull etc. BAHARISTAN endeavoured to contact and report to G Z H and G Z Q each time without success.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1040B/2 to Adty and C.in C. E.I.)

Air Report. Operational Summary No. 206 to 1200 hrs. 2/1. Sudan. Day 1/1.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1148/2 to Air Min).

YARRA. DUNERA. E.T.A. YARRA 0430Z/4 DUNERA in company. Remainder B.N.11½ complete will arrive 3 hours later. YARRA requirements 100 tons fuel 50 tons water.
(YARRA, 1630Z/2 to N.O.I.C. Suez.)

Raiders' captives Mogadiscio. C.in C. Singapore 0912/1/1 (See China Station 1/1) and S.O.(I) Shanghai's 0737/17/12. Nairobi reports Italian prisoner stated 45 British Naval Officers and 250 men at Mogadiscio. Suggest these are mercantile officers and men from vessels sunk by raider in Indian Ocean in August and September. Yugo-Slav DURMITOR sailed Lourenco Marques 9/26/1940. for Batavia and was probably captured about 12/10/40 in approx. position 9 S., 91 E. DURMITOR with prisoners may then have been sent to KISMAYU where C.in C. E.I. suspected her presence. This would explain no prisoners in raider when TEDDY captured. Have you any confirmation?
(D.D.I.C. 1800/2 to C.O.I.S. Singapore).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 2.1.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Raiders' captives, Mogadiscio. (Contd.)

Reply Nc. (C.O.I.S. for East 0508Z/4).

S.W.4.B.

Your 1855/51, as STRATHAIRD now required to change native in Bombay she should proceed to India with prisoners of war instead of STRATHALLEN. ANDES not now required in Australia and propose the prisoners of war allocated to her should proceed in DUNERA which could return from Port Sudan to Egypt to embark them, as she has adequate time available. Agree ORCADES can be used for prisoners. (D. of S.T. 2014/2 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

China.

Indo-China Trade.

Following message to C.in C. China and Governor Straits Settlements from Foreign Office. (N.I.D.4. 2320/2 to C.in C. China and Governor Straits Settlements). Original in Lion copy only.

Defence of Straits Settlements.

Your 1414/7/10 (re supply of guns and ammunition for garrison). Understand that Australia has now proposed to H.M. Government that garrison for Cocos Is. should be from Malaya of India. Request I may be informed if a decision has yet been reached. (0319Z/2).

EDITH MOLLER.

My 0303/21.* Following is gist of Japanese repl to protest regarding EDITH MOLLER. (a) Machinery removed to ensure detention of vessel but arrangements are made to enable use of machinery in the event of bad weather. (b) Restrictions on movements of crew unavoidable in zone of operations but no unnecessary ones imposed. Every consideration is given to supply of provisions etc. (c) Reason for detention was given incables Iwamura's letter 7000 (vide my M 27/1 of 27/6) and opinions remain unchanged. Ship should have obtained approval of C.O. of Wenchow area before entering Wenchow Bay irrespective of understanding given by C.O. of another area.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 2.1.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

EDITH MOLLER. (Contd.) On the contrary ship concealed movements and only stopped after shot fired. Therefore only natural measures should be taken against such ship. (d) R.A. Kanazawa previously proposed practical solution of indicend (vide my number 27 of 9/11 and signal T.O.O. 0937/8/11. Since British Authorities are unwilling to co-operate in this suggestion settlement is being delayed. 2. Request instructions whether I should reply to above and sub para.(d) in particular or leave all further representations to Tokyo. (N.L.O. Shanghai 0642Z/2 to C.in C. China).

Protest against removal of main stop valve of EDITH MOLLER.

DAUNTLESS. DURBAN. Penang departure 1/1 DAUNTLESS Singapore departure 2/1 DURBAN for Penang. (S.O.(I) Singapore 0937Z/2).

America and West Indies.

REVENGE S.C.18. Your 2133/1 re refitting REVENGE. REVENGE sails p.m./2 passing through approx. position
(a) 044° 40' North 050° 00' West
(b) 054° 32' North 035° 00' West and
(c) 057° 55' North 036° 00' West.
Route has been selected to provide cover as far as possible for S.C.18 which has sailed without escort in addition to covering HX.93 and HX.100.
(F.O.3 B.S. 1432/2 to Adty).

REVENGE sailed from Halifax 2/1.
(S.O.(I) Halifax).

DESPATCH. Nassau Departure DESPATCH.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 1149/2).

MOST SECRET.

2.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

EUGENA CAMBANIS (reported lost at sea see Diary 2/12/40).

Master of HILDA KNUDSEN on arrival New York reported having boarded abandoned EUGENA CAMBANIS about 300 miles East of St. John's N.F. on 19/12. Weather preventing attempted towing and raising steam. Sea cocks were opened and 2 rounds 4 inch fired into ship. Master presumes ship sank. Convoy from A.1 for S.C.13 found on board. Crew were taken off by British URLA and landed at St. John's N.F. 2/12. If possible find out from late crew or from URLA now at Halifax disposal of any other confidential books or documents on board.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1743/2 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

Australia.

Raiders.

My 2000Z/29. Photograph of KULMERLAND fuelling NARVIK alongside in anchorage at Emirau shows latter to be longer by about 50 feet but similar to former in free board of hull height of forecastle height and shape of forward position bridge structure height of funnel, distance from stem to bridge to funnel. Whereas KULMERLAND round funnel rakes, aft NARVIK's oval funnel is vertical and long axis 50% greater than diameter of KULMERLAND'S NARVIK hull lines are those of a German cruiser.
(A.C.N.B. 0401Z/2 to Adty).

Troop Commitments.

My 1331Z/29/12. Amend number New Zealand Naval ratings from 300 to 60.
(A.C.N.B. 0634Z/2 to D.S.T.)

My 0401Z 2nd January delete final sentance and substitute "Hull line not unlike that of German cruiser and suggest possibility of being especially designed raider. Survivors statement bears this out".
(A.C.N.B. 0805Z/2 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

2.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.)

Your 0635/27.* Request report of names of survivors may be expedited as much as possible. Admiralty is being flooded with enquiries.
(D.T.D. 1408/2 to A.C.N.B.)
* Survivors from ships sunk by enemy raiders.

Your 1002Z/1. 3 raiders sailed in company from Nauru area 8/12 to anchorage to Marshalls. MANYO MARU fuelled from TOKYO MARU. NARVIK remained outside Atoll and was occasionally sighted during 22 hours stay. No other ship sighted. On passage from Marshall to Emirau 13/12 to 21/12 NARVIK disappeared for 2 days at Emirau NARVIK fuelled from TOKYO MARU. possibly, but improbable that NARVIK met another supply ship outside Atoll or on passage to Emirau.
(A.C.N.B. 1704Z/2 to C.O.I.S.Singapore).

MOST SECRET.

2.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ACHILLES. ACHILLES left here 2130/30/12.
(Bilbao 1658/2 to Adty).

KERSTEN MILES. 4971 tons, which had been refuging at Palma Canary Islands since 28/10/1939, anchored at Teneriffe on 31/12. (D.S. 486).

PORTLAND. My 0855/1. PORTLAND to receive 3000 tons of oats 1000 tons of lentils 1094 bales of wool. PRINCE ROBERT informed.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 1248/2 to Adty).

CELENO. Arrival CELENO 5000 tons of gas oil from Batoum.
(Vice Consul, Varna, T.H.I. 1510/2).

Italian Merchant Ships.

NUMIDIA. Arrival 31/12 NUMIDIA Cagliari. Sailing 1/1 PRES. KOPASTIE Newport Mews via Dubrovnik 908 tons tobacco 8 knots with navicert.
(Susak, T.H.I. 1930/2 to Fairmiss, London).

MAURO CROCE. December 31st arrival Italian steamer MAURO CROCE.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 2030/2).

French Merchant Ships.

MENDOZA, CAMPANA. My 2015/26/12. A Three it is reported that application for oil fuel for French Ship MENDOZA has been approved by Uruguayan Authorities. French ship CAMPANA has been supplied with 130 tons of oil fuel in Buenos Aires.
(N.S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2142Z/2 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET.

2.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

NALGORA.

Following read. SSSS SSSS SSSS (Distress signal - attack by submarine) 22° 24'N., 21° 11'W. NALGORA torpedoed.
(Freetown W/T 2110/2).

NALGORA, British 6579 tons outward bound for Aden and Alexandria with Government stores, torpedoed 245 miles W.N.W. of Cape Blanco West Africa. (D.S. 486).

Submarines Reported.

1815/1.

Aircraft reports enemy submarine reported position 054° 25' N., 015° 00'W at 1815/1 fired the correct British recognition signal.
(C.in C. W.A. 0002/2).

Following report received from captain of aircraft of 502 Sqdn., Aldergrove on convoy escort of an enemy submarine sighted at 1815/1 (Begins). 1815/1 sighted submarine on surface in position 54° 25' 15° 00'W. Dusk was falling. Submarine fired a rocket which burst into 4 or 5 white lights. She also opened fire by machine gun on the aircraft. S/M remained surfaced all the time, and as the aircraft approached fired off the correct recognition signal of a 3 red star cartridge. The aircraft did not therefore attack it but flew round for 20 minutes dropping a parachute flare and a flare float and broadcasting a message to base and convoy S.L.59 giving position. The escort vessels of S.L.59 were about 8 miles away at the time. (Ends).
(C.in C. W.A. 0024/2 to V.A.S.)

My 0002/2. Amend position to read 054° 29'N., 014° 02' W.
(C.in C. W.A. 0142/2).

My 0024/2. Pilot of aircraft now reports position as 54° 29' N., 14° 02' W.
(C.in C. W.A. 0146/2 to V.A.S.)

MOST SECRET.

2.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Search. Your 1511 and your 1638/31/12 both areas searched without success. Have abandoned search owing to shortage of fuel. GENTIAN only positive. Request confirmation WINCHELSEA and GENTIAN should proceed to Clyde My position course and speed 057° 34' N., 014° 38' W., 116° 13 knots.
(WINCHELSEA, 0147/2 to C.in C. W.A.)

Have been detached with MASHONA to hunt possible submarine reported by trawler in position 058° 57'N., 002° 12'W.
Duration of hunt 40 minutes. If no contact is made will rejoin F.O.C. 2nd C.S.
(BEDOUIN 1009/2 to C.in C. H.F.)

1000. Am over enemy submarine in position ??
(Duty "Z" 1000/2 to (RAF) Aldergrove).

Enemy submarine in position 55° 42'N., 10° 32' at 1000.
(Plymouth W/T 1033/2).

Enemy submarine previously reported was:-
Periscope only sighted. (11.5?).
(Duty "Z" 1115Z to R.A.F. Aldergrove).

1206 57°-58°N., 15°-24°W; say 185' W of Rockall. Position indefinite. (D.S. 486).
Submarine in position 037° 44'N., 025° 06'W., at 1400 G.M.T./2 A.l. Authority Captain of Port.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1545/2 to Adty).

Submarine reported in position 037° 44'N., 025° 06'W. at 1400 G.M.T./2 by Ponta Delgada This may have been TRIDENT.
(P.O.C.N.A. 2356/2 to TRIDENT.

Estimated U/Boat dispositions.

Italian. 1 or 2 E. or N.E. of Azores.
1 entering Gironde this morning.
4 between 54° N., and 56° 30'N., 13° 30'W. and 15° 30'W.
3 more in N.W. Approaches of which one was within 60 miles radius of 56° N., 20° W. at 1114/2. Other 2 may be between 54° N., and 55° 30'N. near 20° W.
German. 1 Northbound about 20° N., 20° W.
1 in 55° 42'N., 10° 32'W at 1000/2.
1 about 58° N., 17° W. to 19° W.
3 between 57° N., and 60° N. about 21° W.
Possibly 1 north of 62° N., and West of 20° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1321/2.)

MOST SECRET.

2.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

2045/1. SCIMITAR and SKATE searching for U/Boat sighted and engaged by NORTHERN PRIDE in approx. position 054° 10'N., 013° 50'W at 2045/1.
(SCIMITAR 0055/2 to C.in C. W.A.)

My 0055/2. NORTHERN PRIDE has been sent to rejoin convoy. Details of her sighting as follows. She had fallen some 15 miles astern of convoy investigating a contact. When contact was attacked a large U/Boat surfaced astern Trawler attempted to ram and chased U/Boat for ten minutes before U/Boat submerged and contact was lost. Search by other armed trawler escort was ill directed for sometime as NORTHERN PRIDE was thought to be in screening position on convoy. NORTHERN PRIDE was not found until 2330 when organized search commenced. It is proposed to continue to search until dark 2/1.
(SCIMITAR, 0221/2 to C.in C. W.A.)

Your 0221 approved. Aircraft is proceeding to assist.
(C.in C. W.A. 0702/2 to SCIMITAR).

Detach WESTCOTT, BLUEBELL, CANDYTUFT to join SCIMITAR, SKATE hunt U/Boat in vicinity 054° 10'N., 013° 50/W.
(C.in C. W.A. 0828/2 to SCARBOROUGH).

1207/2. SKATE obtained contact with submarine (corrupt groups) in 054° 16'N., 014° 15' W., at 1207 and attacked. Contact not regained. Am searching the vicinity.
(SCIMITAR 1321/2 to C.in C. W.A.)

Continue to hunt as long as fuel permits.
(C.in C. W.A. 1634/2 to SKATE).

My position 2100 054° 39' N., 014° 20' W., course 180° 12 knots altering 090° at 2330 and to 000° at 2345.
(WESTCOTT 1821/2 to BLUEBELL).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.1.1941.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. (Contd.)

SCIMITAR is continuing hunt with me till 1000/3. BLUEBELL should arrive about 2100. (WESTCOTT 1824/2 to C.in C. W.A.)

Tigris

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.1.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operations in Bay of Biscay

At 1115 B.S.T. this morning the Empire Flying Boat homeward bound from Lisbon reported an 8000 ton German Tanker to be in 45° 40' N., 9° 10' W., and steering East. The Tanker was fully laden and may have British prisoners on board. At 1430 two Beauforts left the Western Approaches to attack her, and at 1505 KELVIN and KIPLING left Plymouth to intercept and destroy her, but failed to find the Tanker. The submarines TIGRIS and TALISMAN are on patrol in the Northern half of the Bay of Biscay, and it is assumed that the Tanker is making for the Gironde. At 1737 she was located and attacked by A/C in 45° 38' N., 6° 35' W., steering 040° at about 15 knots; and a near miss was then obtained against her.

One Sunderland left at 2220/3 to attack to attack an Italian submarine which had been unsuccessfully bombed on the surface 140 miles North of Cape Finisterre and was reported to be unable to dive. The Sunderland was forced to return early by fog. It had been intended to use this aircraft to assist destroyers in their search for the tanker.

British Air Activity

Bremen was again attacked last night by our Bombers, many fires being started and much damage caused; and, in addition to the standing Daily Patrols, 3 extra Patrols were flown this morning in the Rosyth Area.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.1.1941
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Hostile Patrols were maintained this afternoon in the Calais-Boulogne Area and Channel; and there were also Enemy R/C flights off the South Coast of Cornwall, one of which crossed the coast into Devonshire and reached the Cardiff Area. Cardiff and Penarth were bombed last night, considerable damage being caused to houses but little to the docks or shipping; and a message read at Plymouth early this morning states that A/C were over Dublin City at 0355.

Mining

The minelaying operation off the Norwegian Coast was completed at 1440 today when the Force concerned returned to Scapa; and two further operations off the Firth of Forth and Bristol Channel respectively were ordered today to be carried out shortly.

A Mine was detonated at 1555 this afternoon 4 cables from the East Nore Sand Buoy by S.A. gear; and for defence of the Thames Estuary against minelaying A/C ships of the Thames Local Defence Flotilla and Hunt-class Destroyers will be stationed in the principal Channels when weather permits from tomorrow night onwards, as well as EREBUS in Southend Roads and BORDE at Tilbury. The port of -Preston was re-opened at 1312 today; and the Harbour-Master at Drogheda reports that owing to mines laid early this morning from Rockabill to Drogheda Bar, the approaches to Drogheda are unsafe.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.1.1941
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operations in Libya

The bombing of Bardia was continued during last night by R.A.F. Wellingtons and Bombays, and also F.A.A. aircraft, which cooperated in a bombardment by TERROR (monitor) as a prelude to an assault by troops, who entered the Bardia perimeter at dawn this morning.

The battle fleet also cooperated in the attack. No damage was caused to any of our ships, though one of the light craft had a few casualties from a near miss. Several ineffective air attacks were made on the Fleet.

Hurricanes today maintained offensive patrols between Tobruk and Bardia, to cover our forward troops.

1 Hurricane intercepted 5 S. 79's which endeavoured to bomb TERROR 20 miles off Ras Uena (on coast, 46 miles E. of Tobruk) destroying 3 and damaging a fouth Tobruk and Gazala, and enemy landing grounds were also bombed by the R.A.F.

East Indies

A Blenheim aircraft of the R.A.F. carried out an offensive photographic reconnaissanc of Massawa and the Dahlak Archipeligo, dropping bombs on the main quays at Massawa, a hit being possibly registered on a destroyer.

MOST SECRET.

3. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

BATH and ST.ALBANS. to Norwegians.

A.M.2213/20. Propose they be relieved by BRIGHTON and LANCASTER about end January and turned over to the Norwegians. (C. in C. W. A. 2225/3 to R.A.M.L.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/3. (D.C.1205/3.) At 2330/3. (D.C. 2354/3.)

Dover A/A Guns.

Admiralty 1828/27 and 1521/30. Owing to unexpected increase in repair work, it will not now be possible for the work of installing 5.5" guns in an Armed Merchant Cruiser to start for approximately 2 months. Propose therefore, that guns should remain installed at Dover until required.(D. of L.D. 2152/3 to G.H.Q. Home Forces.)

Movements.

KASHMIR, JUPITER, WORCESTERSHIRE.

Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1033/3.) JUPITER, KASHMIR sailed 1710.(C. in C. Portsmouth 1710/3.)

VISCOUNT, WINCHELSEA, VANQUISHER.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1109/3.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S.1454/3.)

SOMALI.

Arrived from Scapa. (C. in C. Rosyth 2139/3.)

LEGION.

Arrived Scapa (A.C.O.S. 2206/3.)

My 2133/1 not to all addressees.

REVENGE.

1. C. in C. W.A. requested to arrange A/S escort to meet REVENGE in position 62° 05' N 20° 00' W. at 1000 B.S.T. on 12/1.

2. She should/

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

REVENGE. 2. She should proceed thence in accordance with my 2251/3.

3. REVENGE will refit at Portsmouth.

4. C. in C. W.A. requested to sail REVENGE to Portsmouth, calling at Clyde if necessary, and arrange A/S and A/A protection.(D.O.D. H. 2235/3.)

Operations.

MINNIE DE LARRINAGA. Programme postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Nore 1040/3 to F.O.I.C. London.)

Enemy Tanker. Empire Flying-Boat inward-bound from Lisbon reports Tanker about 8000 Tons fully laden steering East magnetic at 1115 B.S.T. in 45° 40' N. 9° 10' W. (D.D.I.C. 1230/3.)

German Tanker in 45° 40' N.9° 10'W. at 1115/3 steering 090° magnetic, may have British prisoners on board.

2. 2 Beauforts leaving 1430 to bomb.
3. TIGRIS operating South of Brest to 46° 43' N., TALISMAN operating south of 46°degs. 43'N. No submarines are to be attacked unless established as hostile.
4. Object is interception and destruction of Tanker.
5. Execution. Keep at least 60 miles from Brest in daylight. Assume Tanker is making for Gironde, maximum speed 15 knots. Proceed to intercept at enemys "furthest on" position and sweep Westwards to 6°W. (C. in C. W.A. 1432/3 and 1532/3 to KELVIN, KIPLING.)Sailed KELVIN, KIPLING 1505/3.(C. in C. W.A. 0054/4.)
My 1432. Pilot of aircraft reports "Tanker 8000 tons, loaded, speed about 16 knots, painted grey all over. Flag red but no details seen. No guns visible. Modern ship raked stem 2 masts, ship similar but smaller than GERMANIA. Bridge well forward in usual tanker position."

Shi/

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3. 1. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. Contd.

Enemy Tanker.

Ship altered 30° to starboard on being sighted. Not seen to alter back. (C. in C. W.A. 1742/3 to KELVIN.)

My 1432. A/C reports M/V in 45° 38' N. 6° 35'W at 1737, steering 040°.(C. in C. W.A. 1856/3 to KELVIN.)

My 1432. On conclusion of sweep keep well to westward during daylight and then proceed through 48° N. 8° W. so as to arrive 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2. miles at 1030/5.

2. If unable to keep to this time, report by 0400/5 estimated position course and speed at 0800/5 so that Fighter Protection can be arranged. (C. in C. W.A. 1900/3. to KELVIN.)

My 1856/3. A/C attacked and obtained near miss. Estimated speed of Tanker 15 knots. In spite of course 040° it is still probable destination is Gironde. (C. in C. W.A. 2200/3. to KELVIN.)

Submarines.

OSIRIS. To be transferred to 5th S/M Flotilla on arrival in U.K. (V.A.S.1026/3.) Request following additions to sailing orders. (V.A.S. 1028/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

TUNA. My 1019/30. Details of Tug destroyed 18/12. (V.A.S. 1039/3 to Adty.)

L.23. Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1305/3.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1450/3.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/4. (V.A.S. 1809/3 and 1849/3.)

Unb/

MOST SECRET.

3. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. Contd.

UNBEATEN. Sailed for Portsmouth as by S.S's 0930/2. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1815/3.)

SEAWOLF. Arrived with PHILANTE (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2340/3.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Following ordered for today in addition to Standing Daily Patrols: SA.1A., SA.3. and STAND. (C. in C. Rosyth 0904/3.)

Bordeaux. AP/723/3/1. 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's and Shipping at Bordeaux. Alternative Target, Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1342/3 to St. Eval.)

Lorient. AP/724/3/1. 53 and 59 Sqdns., will attack tonight S/M's and Dockyard at Lorient. Alternative Target, Cherbourg. (H.Q.C.C. 1344/3 to Thorney Island.)

Air Decoy at Harwich. Scheme set out in your 1056/260/40 of 8/10/40 approved in principle. Report if visit from Cdr. Blunt is required. (D. of L.D. 1837/3 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

Patrol LFOP. My 2040/2. Patrol LF-OP will not be flown daily but will be ordered for dawn and dusk periodically when aircraft are available. When ordered it will be included in the daily signal which gives the list of patrols ordered in addition to those which are flown daily as a matter of routine. (C. in C. Rosyth 1750/3 to Adty.)

Tha/

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3. 1. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Thames Estuary. A/A Defences.

Your 2146/ 25. C. in C. Fighter Command has agreed to your proposal in principle provided Estuary Barrage Area is not extended unduly beyond its present boundary. Boundary of area agreed upon and date of coming into force will reach you by following signal.(Air Ministry 1140/3 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Dublin. A/C over Dublin City at 0356. (Plymouth. Recd. 0404/3.)

Cardiff and Fenarth. Bombed last night. Considerable damage to houses, but not important to docks and shipping. No naval casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0930/3.)

Inchigeela. Following read at 0947. Unidentified plane over Inchigeela going N.W. at 0935. (C. in C. W.A. 0947/1 to D.N.I.)

Mining.

Aberdeen Area. Search of War Channel.

Weather permitting intend sailing 18th M/S group. Rendezvous Scurdy Ness at 2300/3. Search east side War Channel ahead of S N 51 to Cruden Scaurs, then return to Aberdeen. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1181/3. to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Weather permitting intend sailing 19th Group to rendezvous position 110° 6 miles from Cruden Scaurs 5 at 0900/4 and search, east side of War Channel ahead of E.N.51 to position 000° 14 miles from Kinnaird Head. E.T.A. 1600/4, thence return searching West side of War channel ahead of W.N.63 from Cruden Scaurs E.T.A. 2330/4. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1255/3 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

My 1255/3. Have postponed search east side of War Channel for 24 hours. Weather permitting intend sailing 19th Group rendezvous 000°Kinnaird Head 13 miles at 1700/4 January and search west side of War Channel ahead of W.N.63 to position 110° Cruden Scaurs five and a half miles expected time of arrival 2330.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1645/3 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Pre/

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3. 1. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Preston. Port re-opened. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1312/3.)

B.8.48. To be carried out on 6/1 or as soon after as possible by TEVIOT BANK escorted by IMPULSIVE. 148° from 56° 10' N. 1°34' W. for 6½ miles (V.C.N.S. 1145/3.)

Faeroes Iceland Minefield. Considerations as to gap. Request your remarks. (V.C.N.S. 1330/3 to C. in C. H.F.) See Operations Volume.

Operation D.Z. Completed. (C. in C. H.F. 1440/3 to Adty.) C.S.2. in ARETHUSA with AURORA, ICARUS, INTREPID, and 4 Destroyers, arrived Scapa 1415.(A.C.O.S.1441/3.)

Z.M.E.11. To be carried out on night of 5/1 or as soon after as possible. 115° from 51° 29' N. 6° 4'W. for 7 miles. (V.C.N.S. 1624/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

Thames Estuary. Mine detonated by S.A. Gear 178° East Nore Sand Buoy 4 cables at 1555/3. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1801/3.)

A754 3/1. For Defence against mine-laying aircraft ships of the Thames Local Defence Flotilla and Hunt Class destroyers will be stationed in Barrow Deep, Edinburgh Channel, Knob Channel, Oaze Deep, and the Nore on nights when weather permits from night 4/5 Jan. EREBUS will be stationed in Southend Roads and Borde at Tilbury. All ships will be in communication with Gor Fort Luton and R.D.F. Ships in Estuary. These ships will engage any unrecognised aircraft within range but they will not engage aircraft flying above 3000 ft.(Air Ministry 2231/3 to Air Commands.)

Drogheda. Harbour Master Drogheda reports German Mines laid by A/C early this morning from Rockabill to Drogheda Bar. Approach to Drogheda unsafe. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1810/3 to Adty.)

CIT/

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Friday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CITY OF BEDFORD.

(In collision 31/12.)

Tanker DONAX reports rescue of 6 British and 9 Lascars. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0720/3 to Adty.) Master of GREIGLASS reports rescue of 9 British and 10 Lascars. 48 drowned including Commodore. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0722/3 and 1521/3 to Adty.)

NEW SPRAY.

(Balloon Drifter) Sank at anchor during gale in 51° 23' 22" N. 0° 45' 9" E. No crew on board. (Cdre. Sheerness 1152/3 to C. in C. Nore.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

F.S. 76. All ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames 0813/3).

F.S. 77. 23 ships (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0938/3).

F.N. 74. Divided into 2 parts during night. LONDONDERRY with 7 ships to R.V. Humber ships at 1300. HASTINGS and SNAPDRAGON to escort part 2 independently. Request Parts 1 and 2 may be added to code -word "Agent" (LONDONDERRY 0953/3 to C. in C. Rosyth) List (N.C.S.O. Thames 1556/3).

O.G. 48. Sailing telegram 0400/3. Route. Escorts SCARBOROUGH, FOLKESTONE. (C. in C. W.A. 1028/3).

O.G. 48. At noon/4 steer for new position to keep clear of H.G. 49. (D.T.D. 1344/3 to SCARBOROUGH) Sailing telegram (C. in C. W.A. 2326/3).

H.X. 95. 3 ships (names) arrived (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1043/3).

F.N. 75. Postponed 24 hours, weather (C. in C. Nore 1126/3) (C. in C. Nore 1353/3 to LONDONDERRY).

B.H.X. 101. Left, escort RAJPUTANA, returning to Halifax (N.O.I.C. Bermuda 1133/3).

W.N. 61. Non-arrival BARON ARDROSSAN (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1238/3).

H.X. 102 Route (D.T.D. 1319/3 to C.O.A.C. Halifax etc.).

H.G. 50. Route (D.T.D. 1336/3 to N.C.S.O. Gibraltar).

H.G. 48. Successful (D.T.D. 1336/3 to N.C.S.O. Gibraltar).

S.L. 59. Following arrived (15 ships, list) (N.C.S.O. Oban 1500/3).

E.N. 51. My 1555/2. Postponed 24 hours (N.C.S.O. Methil 1545/3).

/C.E.21.....

MOST SECRET..

War Diary.

3.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

C.E.21. Your 0936/2. Composition, destroyers FERNIE and BERKELEY, 2 A/S trawlers, 3 M/S trawlers, 5 M.B.B. Vessels, 4 M.L.'s Chasseur 43, 16 merchant vessels in convoy including drifter GOLDEN NEWS. C. in C. Nore to arrange for air protection on 5/1 and counter battery air bombing.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1547/3 to C. in C. Nore).

F.S. 78 List of ships sailed (N.C.S.O. Methil 1654/3) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1746/3).

O.G. 49 1615/7 Route (N.S.S.O. Mersey 1710/3).

H.X. 96. On time at R.V. All ships now reported. (.D.T.D. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1721/3).

S.C. 17. (a) Meet S.C. 17 19 ships, unescorted, 1000/5 090° 055° 25'N. 017° 00'W 090° 7 knots then through:-
(i) 055° 25'N. 015° 30'W. (ii) 056° 00' 012 40' (iii) 056° 00' 009° 00'.

(b) R.A. Leir in NAILSEA COURT for Clyde EMPIRE MARINER for Berry Roads (C. in C. W.A. 0702/3 to VETERAN, WOLVERINE, DEPTFORD, DELPHINIUM, ERICA, ARBUTUS).

H.G. 50.
H.G. 51. Estimated 1600/10 SCARBOROUGH will bring back H.G. 50 and FOLKESTONE H.G. 51 detailed orders will be issued by F.O. C.N.A.
(C. in C.W.A. 1011/3 to SCARBOROUGH, FOLKESTONE).

W.N. 65. Code MUSTER 2200/5 H.M. Trawlers STELLA CAPELLA (S.9.) FANDANGO. WNO Code LIMITED to R/V with MUSTER off Ardnamurchan Point in 56° 42'N. 06° 20'W. at 0230/7.
(N.C.S.O. Greenock 1052/3 to C.inC.W.A

E.N. 51. My 1141/2 JASON to act as additional escort to E.N. 51. has been passed to WOLSEY. WOLSEY is to take the place of JASON until relieved by JASON on completion of defect. She is then to return to Rosyth.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1115/3 to WOLSEY).

Cancel my 1141/2 and 1115/3 (WOLSEY to take place of JASON as escort of E.N. 51. (C. in C. Rosyth 1511/3).

/H.X. 97.....

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

H.X. 97. MANSEPOOL H.X. 97 for Cardiff arrived Barry Road. Escorting Trawler DERBY COUNTY sailed in execution of previous orders.
(N.O.I.C. Barry 1130/3).

S.L.S. 59. Following received from AMBUSCADE. Not met. Lost contact with remainder of escort group request position by D/F Bearing. Weather report.
(C. in C. W.A. 1131/3 to Admty).

Your 1128/3. Not possible rendesvous SLS 59 by dark. Am returning to base.
(WESTCOTT 1400/3 to C. in C. W.A.).

F.N. 75. My 1017/27/12 F.N. 75 postponed 24 hours (C. in C. Rosyth 1225/3).

8 M.V.'s. Intend to sail Group of 8 M.V's escorted by KINGSTON ANDALUSITE and CAPE CORMORIN from Needles at 1730 today for Dartmouth. Dartmouth 0815/4.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1407/3

F.S. 79. My 1017/27/12 F.S. 79 postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Rosyth 1436/3).

S.L. 59B. My 1211/3. It is now estimated S.L 59B will reach 053° 48'N. 005° 08'W at 2200 today, escort NORTHERN DAWN.
(C. in C. W.A. 1452/3 to ROSEMARY).

My 1452/3. Estimate S.L. 59B will not reach rendezvous until 0030/4.
(C. in C. W.A. R1726/3 to ROSEMARY).

H.X. 101. AUSONIA sailing Sydney ocean escort to H.X. 101 returning to Halifax on completion.
(R.A.3.B.S. 1544/3 to Admty).

O.B. 270. Sailed PERIWINKLE to carry out A/S practice 1300/4 and 0900/5 then proceeding to escort O.B. 270 sailing 1330/5.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1642/3 to C. in C. W.A.).

F.S. 78. One H.M.T. joining at 62 D Buoy.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 1754/3 to Admty etc).

F.S. 80.
F.S. 81. My 1017/27/12. Cancel F.S.80. Amend escorts for F.S. 81 to read VERSATILE and GARTH.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1855/3 to Admty etc).

11 M.V's. Intend sailing at 1700/4 11 M/VS including 1 Tanker for Hartland Gap.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1938/3 to C. inC.W.A)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Troop Convoys.

W.S. 5.B.

Your 2251/2. Request date of sailing from Clyde of W.S. 5B.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1125/3 to Admty).

Your 1125/3. January 7th
(D.O.D. (H) 2104/3 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

My 1825/31/12. For DUCHESS OF RICHMOND read DUCHESS OF BEDFORD.
(D.T.D. 1832/3).

MONARCH OF BERMUDA.

MONARCH OF BERMUDA will leave Convoy at 1200/11/1/41 and proceed to 36° 00'N. 13° 00'W, thence to Gibraltar, escorted by FEARLESS and FORESIGHT at 18 knots.
(D.T.D. 1830/3 to N.C.S.O. Milford Haven).

GEORGIC
WARWICK CASTLE,
(escort
RAMILLIES)
REVENGE
to be met.

My 2202/21.1.C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail:- RAMILLIES, GEORGIC and WARWICK CASTLE from Clyde at 1800 B.S.T. 9/1. Routed through Minches and afterwards positions:

A.	61° 25'N.	13° 00'W.
B.	62° 30'N.	20° 00'W.
C.	62° 30'N.	25° 00'W.
D.	62° 00'N.	30° 00'W.

thence to destination keeping to the Northward of area prohibited to westbound ships in accordance with my 1345/12/11.

4. Destroyers should leave convoy as convenient to meet REVENGE in position 62° 05'N. 20° 00'W. at 1000 B.S.T. on 12/1.

5. Approach course for REVENGE 090°.

6. If not met proceed to 62° 05'N. 17° 00'W., thence by reverse route of RAMILLIES to Clyde.

7. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange fighter protection for RAMILLIES and REVENGE.
(D.O.D. (H) 2231/3 to C. in C. W.A. RAMILLIES REVENGE).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Treatment of Merchant Ships.

General instructions for treatment of French merchant ships to be observed forthwith (1) escorted ships, (2) unescorted ships. In Straits of Gibraltar area only, French territorial waters may be infringed for purpose of intercepting either escorted or unescorted ships. (Hd. of M., 0042/3, to C.in C's. F.O.C.M.P., F.O.C.N.A., and S.O. Force H). (Full text in Lion copy only.)

Use of Force.

Para. one sub-para. (c).
1. If French escort refuses to stop in face of overwhelming British forces or declare their intention to fight rather than comply it is not clear how British Forces are to achieve the object if they may not fire the first shot.
Is it intended under such circumstances convoy is not to be interfered with?
2. If force is displayed it is considered essential we should be prepared to use it even if this involves firing first.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1750/3, to Admty.)

Your 1750/3.
Force may be used to compel Merchant Ships in convoy to stop to enable guard to be put on board in accordance with the usual procedure laid down in Prize Manual. Prohibition given in para (c) of my 0042/3 only applies to action against escorting warships and to achieve object of Ration there is no need to force escort to stop. (D.O.D.(F) 2234/3, to F.O.C. N.A.)

Operation "Ration".

Your 1210/2. (Re interception of French ships). Have all ships now arrived at Gibraltar?

Your 0126/3, CHANTILLY, SALLY MAERSK arrived Gibraltar. OCTANE and SUROIT delayed by heavy westerly weather due noon 3/1.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0816/3 to Admty.)

Press Communique.

In order to dispel rumoured report circulating locally Vice Consul is agitating for the issue of communique on recent interception of French Convoy. Provided that it is considered desirable to release information request brief outline or form communique should take. (F.O.C.N.A. 1024/3 to Admty.)

Your 1024/3. It is not clear to which Vice Consul reference is made. Understand there is no French Vice Consul at Gibraltar. Question of issue of a communique will be further considered when we have a more detailed report from

/ you ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French (Contd.)

you after arrival of all the ships concerned. (D.P.D. 2365/3, to F.O.C.N.A.) Reply. See 1830/4.

SALLY MAERSK — No. 1781. Admiralty 2001/1/1/41 Danish SALLY MAERSK originally with French armed guard from Casablanca to Marseilles arrived Gibraltar under British guard. Portion of manifest of cargo loaded Ivory Coast is missing but summary as follows.
Danish crew when French Guard was removed hoisted red ensign and are strong pro-British. (Conband, Gibraltar, 1235/3 to Admty.)

My 1610/1. Danish SALLY MAERSK had a French armed guard of marines on board consisting of three N.C.O's and six men also a French supercargo. These have been removed. The ship has the same crew on board as when previously under the Danish flag and the officers and men are strongly pro-British. On being boarded and after French armed guard had been put under restraint the crew hoisted the Free French Flag and then the Red Ensign.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1516/3, to Admty.)

OCTANE. — No. 1783/3. Your 2001/1/1/41 French tanker OCTANE Casa Blanca to Marseilles in ballast. Request instructions.
(Conband, Gibraltar 1640/3, to Admty.)

SUROITU — No.1784/3. Your 2001/1/1/41. French Tanker SUROITU Casablanca to Marseilles in ballast. Request instructions.
1640/3.

Operations "Ration", "Success". — Your 1233/3. (See Mediterranean). To enable destroyers to rest and make good minor defects before operation EXCESS, request RATION be discontinued from noon 4/1.
(ii) 10 Destroyers including 3 of 2nd D.F. now available for EXCESS.
(S.O. Force H., 1630/3).

Cessation of "RATION". — Your 1630/3. Approved.
(1st S.L. 2350/3 to S.O. Force H).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Air Report. Glenn Martin carried out reconnaissance Gibraltar p.m. 2/1. (200 Group, 0930/3).

ARK ROYAL defects. Your 1259/2 (not to ARGUS). Material for ARK ROYAL's superheater. One bar was placed on board ARGUS by N.S.O. Greenock before ship sailed. (D.O.D.(F) 1051/3 to S.O. Force H).

Azores S/M Patrol. A submarine of the 2nd flotilla will be required to fill the Azores Patrol between a.m. 6/2 and p.m. 20/2. To reduce the resultant gap in the Bay of Biscay Patrol SNAPPER is to be lent to 2nd flotilla on completion of working up for one Patrol in the North Zone in Bay of Biscay fuelling at Plymouth en route if necessary. (V.A.S., 1502/3, to S.2.)

Raider Action, Press Reports. Your 1434/31/12 and my 1218/1 stories from Daily Express and Allied Newspapers arrived in London marked passed for publication and were therefore not submitted for censorship. Both stories contained reference to a light cruiser which would have been deleted here as assumed in your 1434/31/12. Request you will instruct Press representatives with Force H. that articles must not be so endorsed as it is essential they should be seen here before publication. The examination of stories on board H.M. Ships is to prevent secret matter transmitted but does not give authority for publication. (D.P.D. 1550/3 to S.O. Force H).

S/M's. Position of Submarines at 0800/4 and movements for the following 24 hours are (a) TRIDENT off Ponta Delgada (b) OLYMPUS 035° 20' north 013° west course 283, 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1600/3, to N.A. Station).

S/M Sanctuary, Orders to OSIRIS. Sanctuary Y will be established within positions 035° 28' 002° 48' W. 035° 38' 002° 54' W. 035° 32' 002° 25' W. 035° 42' 002° 30' W. Sanctuary X as in my 1601/3.
(2) To avoid eastward passage of Force H take one of the following courses depending on time available after passing position D 038° 20' 005° 00' W.
(A) Proceed into Sanctuary Y until ordered to proceed given by F.O.C. North Atlantic.
(B) Proceed vicinity of 038° 10' 000° 05' East remaining Sanctuary X until ordered to proceed given by F.O.C. North Atlantic.
(3) Adopt course (B) if Sanctuary Y cannot be reached by 0700/7 and report to F.O.C. N.A.

/ (4) ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

S/M Sanctuary, Orders to OSIRIS (contd.)

(4) Force H passes south of Rhodes Alboran (?Island) and convoy north of Alboran Island P.M./7.
(5) S/Ms are not to be attacked unless identified as enemy.
(S.O. Force H, 1609/3, to OSIRIS).

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations.
2 routine A.S. Patrols. 1 surface recco. East. Area covered 1° West to Cape Spartel. (200 Group 1805/3).

NORTHERN PRINCE.

Admty. 1233/3 NORTHERN PRINCE not yet (?refloated) and will definitely require docking extent of damage not yet ascertained. Unlikely ship can be made ready for sea under three or four weeks. (F.O.C.N.A., 1830/3, to Admty.)

EMPIRE TROOPER (damaged 25/12) CLEMATIS, KENYA

Position course and speed at 2000 G.M.T. 036° 02' N. 009° 52' W. 095° 8 knots. Intend to leave EMPIRE TROOPER in charge CLEMATIS at 0900/4 KENYA 1530 B.S.T./4. Request route instruction be passed to KENYA and CLEMATIS as no Q K message or search channel forms are held. CLEMATIS requires docking to make good A/S defects. KENYA very short of provision and stores. (F.O.C. 1° C.S., 1904/3 to F.O.C.N.A.) H.S. note - position is about 220 miles W. of Gibraltar.

TRIUMPH UPHOLDER

Gibraltar departures 1900/3 TRIUMPH and UPHOLDER in accordance with S.O. Force "H" 1601/20/12. (S.O.I., Gib., 2040/3, to Admty.)

Azores Patrol OLYMPUS TRIDENT.

OLYMPUS will relieve you on 7/1 and has been ordered not to approach within 25 miles of Ponta Delgada until after 0001/7 P.S.T. U.S. Cruiser TUSCALOOSA left Lisbon for United States today 3/1 probably calling at Azores. (Admty., 2237/3, to TRIDENT).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

STIKLESTAD. Overdue shipping, my 1125/31/12 STIKLESTAD arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0935B/3).

HAWKINS. Departure 0100/3 HAWKINS on patrol in accordance with C. in C. South Atlantic's 2305/2. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1031/3).

STIRLING CASTLE. P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1721/1. Ministry of Shipping representative Capetown requests STIRLING CASTLE which left Suez 1/1 may be ordered to proceed to Durban for quick docking subsequently calling at Capetown for mails. (Simonstown 1131 to S.N.O. Red Sea).

W.S.5A. Departure 1000/3 BRIDGEWATER to rendezvous with convoy W.S.5A. at 0700/4. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1135N/3 to Admty).

Foreign Legion Movement. Arrival p.m./3 DELHI, MILFORD, ASPHODEL, escorting Free French ships KASTINDODES, PALMES and TOUAREG. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1701N/3).

SCIELANDA BONITA. Overdue shipping. Dutch ship SCIELANDA Oban departure 9/12 due Freetown 30/12 and Panama ship BONITA Milford Haven departure 7/12 due Freetown 29/12 have not arrived. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1732/3).

F.O.C.N.A. 1212/3 and my 1455/3. Oiler RAPIDOL will arrive Bathurst, Gambia a.m./6 and can be used for fuelling. Intention is that you should arrive Freetown 8/1 if possible. (C. in C. S.A. 1835N/3, VIDETTE, VELOX).

/U. Boat Bases.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

U. Boat Bases.

Your 0250/2. Probable that submarines from French Biscay Ports could spend 6 to 9 days depending on size in Freetown area and that first period of attack between 15/11 and 18/11 could have been carried out from there. Noticeable that this period of activity in area was so short. Same applies to second period of attack, NEWTON PINE, on 13/12 though this may have continued into third period but this not thought likely. Third period of attack from 21/12 to 31/12 is unlikely to have been one submarine from French Biscay Area but might have been two. Special Intelligence suggests two. Other possibilities - (A) Dakar, only report of strange submarine was small dark submarine not French 24/11, no other indication (B). Casablanca. Gibraltar report of 22/11 suggested (B.3 that enemy submarines were using port. (C) German tanker has been at Las Palmas, Canaries throughout and suggestions have been made that it has been to sea at nights or submarine might enter at night to fuel. Other tankers in Area October to November. Unidentified Spanish? tanker seen West of this area 5/12. Special Intelligence has indicatedsubmarine and surface activity in this area especially 18/11 to 26/11.(D) Lee of Cape Verde Islands. (E) Off African Coast in Area river Componi French Guinea and Orango Channel off Bissao Port, Guinea. (F) Fuelling at Sea is quite likely and would be possible to replenish with stores and torpedoes as well. (E) Consider French Biscay Port most likely. (A) and (B) possi le but unlikely from information available. (C) likely and (D) possible but not likely (E) quite possible and will endeavour to make further enquiries. There is no Consul at Bissao yet, my 2015N/11/9 refers. (F) very likely. Flying boats at Freetown would make problem much simpler as regards little used anchorages and positions at sea. (C. in C. S.A. 1855/3 to Admty).

/PRETORIA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

PRETORIA CASTLE.

Unless ordered to contrary you are to leave patrol p.m./4 and proceed Freetown to arrive 8/1.
(C. in C. S.A. 1915N/3 to PRETORIA CASTLE).

Enemy Unit.

My 2305/2. Enemy vessels may be supplying ship.
(C. in C. S.A. 2247/3 to NEPTUNE, HAWKINS, PRETORIA CASTLE.

Mediterranean.

Aerodromes, Greece and Turkey.

My 0913/14. 2nd report from reconnaissance party (H.Q. R.A.F.M.E. 1819/3 to Air Ministry) See Mediterranean Volume.

F.A.A. UnTts.

Strength and organisation
(C. in C. Med. 0201/3) See Mediterranean Volume.

Operation B.S.

Operation B S. (?Condition) B is in force.
(Capt S.1. 1059/3 to S/M's on Patrol).

Air Report. Bardia.

Summary No 207 up to 1200hours 3/1/40. Night 1/2 3 Wellingtons and 2 Bombays continued attacks on Bardia dropping 16,800 lb bombs 1 large fire started near stores dumps. Day 2/1 Total of 44 Blenheims continued sustained bombing of Bardia throughout the day straddling concentration of M.T. vehicles and tents and registering number of direct hits.

Benghasi
Derna
Tobruk
TERROR
bombardment.

Reconnaissances reported 4 ships 400 feet and 6 ships 300 feet in Benghasi 2 ships 100 feet anchored off Derna 2 destroyers observed approaching Tobruk. Night 2/3 bombing of Bardia continued during night by Wellingtons, Bombays and F.A.A. aircraft in coOoperation with bombardment by TERROR as prelude to assault by our troops.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1211/3).

/Bardia.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Bardia perimeter entered.

Operation Summary No. 207 Part 2 up to 1200 hrs. 3/1/1940. 7 Wellingtons dropped 22750 lbs. of bombs on Town hitting officers quarters and native troops barracks and starting 3 fires. Day 3/1 our troops entered Bardia perimeter at dawn.

Operation "Excess".

In view of possible repercussions at Gibraltar to recent carrying out of operation "RATION" it is undesirable that ships for operation "EXCESS" should remain at that port longer than absolutely necessary. Request you will confirm that "EXCESS" will be carried out with D1 day 7/1 as in S.O. Force H's 1211/31, or if not state when you consider it will be practicable to carry out the operation. It can be accepted if necessary that NORTHERN PRINCE will not be passed through during this operation.

Landing Craft.

Please signal address to which stores and equipment for landing craft carriers should be sent.
(D.O.D.(F) 1238/3 to R.A. Alexandria).

(Reply see 1218/4)

Admiralty 1233/3 Confirmed D.One day can be 7/1. if S.O. Force H. concurs.
(C. in C. Med 1517/3 to Admty).

Your 1517/3. Concur.
(S.O. Force H. 1910/3 to C. in C. Med).

NORTHERN PRINCE personnel to proceed in BONAVENTURE.

It is of great importance that the 400 passangers in NORTHERN PRINCE should proceed to Malta with convoy "EXCESS". If C. in C. Mediterranean concurs, it is requested that S.O. Force "H" will arrange for them to be embarked in BONAVENTURE, and destroyers and, as far as possible in other ships of the convoy.
BONAVENTURE to disembark her troops at Malta and return to Gibraltar as soon as possible. It is hoped that as many trained ratings as you can make available will return to U.K. in BONAVENTURE.
(D.O.D.(F) 1524/3 to C. in C. Med.
F.O. Force H.

/Main.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Main Fleet.

Departures 2/1 C. in C. Mediterranean in WARSPITE, YORK, GLOUCESTER, NUBIAN MOHAWK, GALLANT, DIAMOND, JANUS, VENDETTA, WRYNECK, VALIANT, BARHAM, CALCUTTA.
(S.O.I. Alexandria 1651/3 to Admty).

Malta Air Report.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 3/1. All times G.M.T. No air operations undertaken due to bad weather. No enemy air activiy over Malta today. No Naval or Military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/3)

TRUANT.
REGENT.

REGENT will leave Malta P.M./5 through position 033° 18'N. 013° 41'E. for area R. If you consider it essential should not enter that area proceed to vicinity of 033° 35'N. 014° 30'E and make a short report to this effect before proceeding to Area S when REGENT will be diverted to area P. South of Latitude 033° 20'N between Longtitude 013° 20'E. (ii) REGENT has been ordered to enter area S A.M./10 keeping to West of Longtitude 013° 50E. until 1900 (minus sign one) /10.
(V.A. Malta 2213/3 to TRUANT)
(Amended, see 1005/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

A/C Kismayu. Ref. Admty 2229/2/8 and A.O.C. Aden 1146/18/12. A/C operations against Kismayu (Hd of M. 1726/3 to C. in C. E.I.) (See Operations Volume).

Operation 'Begun". My 1902/12. Operation "Begun", object denial of supplies to enemy. Conclusions of conference between SHROPSHIRE, CERES and COLOMBO and Army and Air representatives at Mombasa 1/1. Proposals (C. in C. E.I. 13002/3) See Operations Volume.

ANTENOR Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0302/3).

VAN DE ZAAN. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0302/3).

Mogadiscio. Your 1900/2. (British Naval officers and men at Mogadiscio in Italian Somaliland) No confirmation.
(S.O.I. Colombo 1316Z/3 to Admty).

Italian destroyer bombed at Massowa. R.A.F. attacked destroyer Massowa main quay 0730Z/3. 2 bombs exploded alongside. Photographs reveal 3 submarines in Khor Dakliyat 2 at quay and one anchored 700 yards 320 degrees from quay with small craft alongside.
(N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1702Z/3 to C. in C. E.I). (See also H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1222/4 under Mediterranean 4/1).

Aden Air Report. Operational Summary No. 205 for 24 hrs. ending 1500 G.M.T. 3/1 (No naval items).
(A.H.Q. Aden 1807/3).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ABERDARE
MARROW.

My 320/5 dated 23/9/40. In view of your 1807/1 (ABERDARE and MARROW to be sailed to join Mediterranean) request decision may be signalled.
(Cdre. Malaya 0211Z/3 to Admty).

QUEEN MARY.

Your 0312/3. Escort (for S.S. QUEEN MARY) could be arranged.
(C. in C. China 0915Z/3 to A.C.N.B. Melbourne).

DANAE.

Hong Kong departure 2/1 DANAE for Singapore.
(S.O.(I) Singapore, 0947/3).

Route compromised Submarine attack.

Your 1856/19/12 and my 1223/22/12. F.O.C. 3rd B.S. has suggested for consideration that all messages in which convoy routes are mentioned should be made in S.P. 02172 (Flag Officers Recyphering Table) through holders of this table and transmitted by Imperial Cables.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1036/3 to Admty).

Raider Intelligence.

It is presumed that you are keeping the C. in C., Dutch East Indies fully informed of Raider Intelligence.
He has reported to the Dutch Admiralty in London that he did not know of the capture of the OLE JAKOB until her arrival in Japan. It is understood that Dutch Cruiser TROMP will be on her patrol of the Equator on 15/1 see K.T. 1707/24/10/40.
(D.O.D. (F) 1415/3 to C. in C. China)
Your 1415/3 confirmed
(C. in C. China 0421/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

REVENGE.
LACONIA.

Your 1432/2. REVENGE should provide close ocean escort for H.X. 98 and cover for H.X. 100. LACONIA should provide close ocean escort for S.C. 18. (D.T.D. 1904/3 to R.A.5.).

CARADOC.

Leave Bermuda A.M./5 and proceed to patrol Western half of square F.30 D. to cover independent shipping routes. (?Leave) patrol so as to arrive Trinidad 11/1.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1002/3 to CARADOC).

EUGENIA.
CAMBANIS.

Your 1743/2. Master British Steamship URLA reports when he rescued full crew of Greek Steamship EUGENIA CAMBANIS on November 27/28 and 29 he was informed by rescued master that he had all books and papers with him.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1123/3 to Admty).

PACIFIC
PRESIDENT.

My 1534/23 PACIFIC PRESIDENT still unreported at New York. Have you information?.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1436/3 to M. of Shipping

Australia.

Troop
Transport.

Required to send six thousand Australian troops to Singapore (date). These numbers are in addition to requirements for U S Nine give in my 1331Z/29. Propose that troops for Singapore are lifted in QUEEN MARY and that QUEEN ELIZABETH or other suitable ship replace QUEEN MARY in U.S. Nine. QUEEN MARY would then be sailed in company of U.S. Nine to vicinity of Sunda Strait. This plan would have following advantages:- (i) providing C. in C. China could arrange escort for QUEEN MARY from near Sunda Strait it would avoid duplicating escort arrangements (ii) it would assist greatly in maintining secrecy of destination of QUEEN MARY (iii) QUEEN MARY could have paravane fitted at Singapore.
(A.C.N.B. 0312Z/3 to D. of S.T.

CANBERRA
U.S.8.

Arrival Fremantle 0200Z/3 CANBERRA escorting U.S.8.
(A.C.N.B. 1105/3 to Admty).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.1.1941
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

PROCIDA — Departure 2/1 PROCIDA for Valencia. (Barcelona, 1259/3)

SPEZIA
BELLONA — Arrival SPEZIA, BELLONA. (Valencia, T.H.I. 2035/3)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

UMBRIA (Scuttled at Port Sudan. 12/6) — Your 2538 S 482/1 of 28/10 (not to Admty.) Inform local authorities that I do not regard cargo of UMBRIA as a danger but presence of vessel is a nuisance. I recommend cargo be salved as step towards salving the ship herself. Presume contract for salvage will be made by local authorities. (C. in C., E.I., 05242/3 to N.O.I.C. Port Sudan)

DUCHESSA D'AOSTA — N.C.S.O. Duala's 1800/31 has been passed to Admty. Re my 1008/30, passing N.C.S.O. Duala's 0943/28 British Fernando Po replies to my enquiry as follows:- No unusual activity had been detected on board Italian ship DUCHESSA D'AOSTA. Your (? group omitted) may have originated in credible rumour that negotiations are in progress to sell locally part of cargo in order to provide for local expenditure. (Ends) (S.O.I.Freetown, 1113/3 to Admty.)

KUYAGUINYA MARIA-LOUISA

GIUSEPPINA GHIRARDI — Arrived from Batoum GIUSEPPINA GHIRARDI with cargo gas, KUYAGUINYA MARIA-LOUISA from Russian Port with cargo transit goods. (Varna, 1635/3)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.1.1941
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

PROCIDA

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SPEZIA
BELLONA

Arrival SPEZIA, BELLONA. (Valencia, T.H.I. 2035/3)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

UMBRIA
(Scuttled at Port Sudan, 12/6)

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DUCHESSA
D'AOSTA

N.C.S.O. Duala's 1800/31 has been passed to Admty. Re my 1008/30, passing N.C.S.O. Duala's 0943/28 British Fernando Po replies to my enquiry as follows:- No unusual activity had been detected on board Italian ship DUCHESSA D'AOSTA. Your (? group omitted) may have originated in credible rumour that negotiations are in progress to sell locally part of cargo in order to provide for local expenditure. (Ends) (S.O.I.Freetown, 1113/3 to Admty.)

KUYAGUINYA
MARIA-LOUISA

GIUSEPPINA
GHIRARDI

Arrived from Batoum GIUSEPPINA GHIRARDI with cargo gas, KUYAGUINYA MARIA-LOUISA from Russian Port with cargo transit goods.
(Varna, 1635/3)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.1.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

2045/1. With reference to NORTHERN PRIDE'S attack on U-boat consider after submarine surfaced it did not dive again but escaped by superior speed on the surface. Submarine was damaged and left oil track. She was fired at by 4" and OERLIKON. OERLIKON bullet seen to hit.
Submarine was large type painted light gray. From records attack was a good one and submarine surfaced very close to flares dropped with the depth charges. Full written report follows.
(Capt. (D). Londonderry, 2035/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

No sight or contact of S/M. A/S conditions very bad owing to weather. BLUEBELL and CADYTUFT not yet joined. Propose to abandon hunt at 1600 if not in contact. Lat 54 40 long 14 00. (WESTCOTT, 0932/3 to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 1128/3. Regret unable to. Fuel only sufficient for return to base. (SCIMITAR, 1420/3 to C.in C. W.A.).

My 1924. At 1745 position of U-boat was 045° 29' north 008° 33' west course 150° 12 knots. (V.A.S., 2129/3 to TIGRIS, TALISMAN).

1745. Aircraft report having bombed U-boat in position 045 degs. 20' North 008 degs. 33' West at 1745 U-boat probably unable to dive. (V.A.S. 1924/3 to TIGRIS, TALISMAN)

Aircraft bombed and damaged U/B in position 45° 20' N. 08° 41' W. at 1745/3 steering 150° when last seen. One aircraft is now leaving to search and attack keeping west of 7° W. and South West of a line 130° from 46° 30' N. 07° 00' W.
(C.in C. W.A. 2120/3 KELVIN, KIPLING.)

My 1019/30 (attack on U/B etc. by TUNA 18/12) U-Boat twice fired four red star identification signal during the chase, and counter attacked with after gun and stern torpedo tube.
Tug destroyed resembled Italian MONTE CHRISTO (Janes 1939) and challenged TUNA with lamp making I.T.A.
At 0200 24/12 sighted four white star identification signal position 45° 30' N. 010 45' W. but no ship seen.
(V.A.S. 1039/3 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.1.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

NALGORA

Following in repetition of my 0043/3 Begins. NALGORA torpedoed in position 022° 30' N. 021° 00' W. at 2110/2 Ends. (C.in C. S.A. 0806/3 to S.O. Force K.).

Reference torpedoing of NALGORA in position 022° 30' N. 021° 00' W. at 2330/2. If you can accept delay it is for consideration whether you direct VELOX and VIDETTE to stand by subsequently arranging for ships to fuel St. Vincent.

Your 1212/3. Request you order VELOX and VIDETTE to endeavour to locate NALGARA and report circumstances. Please report any (? event) later than original distress message. (C.in C. S.A. 1455/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Ref. 1952/3 (VELOX and VIDETTE to proceed to locate NALGORA) from F.O.C.N.A. Your 15?/3 not received. Will arrive position 0600N/4 with endurance remaining at 12 and 20 knots respectively VELOX 100 and 44 hours VIDETTE 77 and ?29 hours. (VELOX 2106N/3 to C.in C. S.A.).

Submarines Reported.

0225. 58.30 - 61° N., 16° - 22° W., say 210' N.W. by W. of Rockall. Position indefinite. (D.S. 486).

1243. D/F Italian U-boat near 59° N. 23° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1339/3).

By DONAX. Master of British tanker DONAX (which rescued survivors from CITY OF BEDOFRD - see Casualties) reports sighting submarine in 58.40 N., 17.50 W. Three rounds of 5.7 fired at s/m which disappeared, and vessel proceeding undamaged. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0720/3 to Admty.)

1500/2. Report from Ponta Delgada graded A One states submarine in position 037° 44' N. 025° 06' W. at 1500 zone minus one 2/1. This may have been TRIDENT. (F.O.C.N.A. 0034/3 to CALIFORNIA LEITH ESPERANCE BAY).

1500/2. For information. Following was transmitted on GS Routine. Addressed TRIUMPH, OLYMPUS from F.O.C.N.A. Submarine reported in position 037° 04' N. 025° 06' W. at 1400/2 G.M.T. by Ponta Delgada. Grade A one. This may have been French Submarine LA REUNION. 2356/2. (V.A.S. 1626/3 to TRIDENT).

1830/2. Submarine in position at 037° 52' N. 025° 55' W. 1730/2 G.M.T. A 1 Captain of Port. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1210/3 to Admty.)

/ N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada ..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.1.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada reports submarine in position 037° 52' N. 025° 55' W. 1730/2 G.M.T. Graded A 1.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1941/3 to North Atlantic Station).

N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada reports submarine in position 037° 52' N. 025° 55' W. at 1730/2 G.M.T. (graded A. 1).
(F.O.C.N.A. 2100/3 to TRIDENT and OLYMPUS)

Barcelona. Consul General Barcelona reports 2/1 large Italian submarine reported at or near Barcelona and to have left 1/1 for Spanish Atlantic coast.
(A.N.A. Madrid, 1819/3, to S.O.I., Gibraltar).

1826. At 1826 Italian U-boat within 50 miles of 045° north 008° west bound for Bordeaux.
(C.in C. W.A. 1902/3 to KELVIN, KIPLING.

2310/2. Reference Admiralty Message A.F. (Position of enemy submarine) Position 22° 30' N: 21° W. at 2210 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0158/3).

2310/2 Estimate one Italian U-Boat now to Eastward of Azores one German at 2310 2/1 in 022° 30' N, 021° W.Northbound.
(V.A.S. 1447/3.)

a.m./3. S/M sighted a.m./3 ten miles N.E. of San Miguel Azores (A.One)
American Cruiser TUSCALOSA left Lisbon p.m./3rd direct for Norfolk.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1801/3, to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian
1 to eastward of Azores.
4 within 60 miles radius of 55°N.14°W.
3 within 90 miles radius of 55° 30' N. 20° W.

German.
1 in 22° 30' N. 21° W. 2310/2 northbound.
1 within 60 miles radius of 55° 30' N. 10° W.
1 within 30 miles radius of 57° 30' N. 19° 30' W.
1 within 40 miles radius of 58° 30' N. 19° 30' W.
1 within 30 miles radius of 59° 30' N. 20° W.
1 within 60 miles radius of 60° N. 19° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1234/3).

MOST SECRET

4.1.1941
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Iceland

Messages were sent today to F.O.I.C. Iceland and G.O.C. Iceland Force regarding the defence of Hval Fiord.

Defence of Oban

ARETHUSA left Scapa at 2130 to relieve NAIAD at Oban.

Convoys, A/S Protection

Following on the widening of the homeward bound convoy cycles and consequent saving in escort hours, the Admiralty have proposed a scheme to give additional A/S protection to convoys, particularly in the current moonlight period.

Operations in Bay of Biscay

KELVIN and KIPLING abandoned at noon today the search for tanker and Italian submarine reported in the Bay of Biscay.

British Air Activity

Attack on Bremen

Bremen was attacked last night by aircraft of Bomber Command, for the third night in succession. The last two aircraft to attack reported the whole area a mass of flames.

Near misses were obtained in an attack last night by a Beaufort on an enemy tanker off the coast of France. Fires were started in an attack on the dockyard ~~and~~ at Brest. Submarines and shipping at Bordeaux were attacked. 16 submarines are reported at Bordeaux.

Naval aircraft attached to Coastal Command bombed two merchant vessels whilst on patrol off the coast of Norway. Three direct hits were made on one of these ships, of about 800 tons, and six hits by 100 lb bombs on the other vessels, of about 3000 tons.

/Attack on....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.1.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity-Contd.

Attack on Naval Units in Brest

Blenheims this afternoon attacked Brest and preliminary reports state that a direct hit was obtained on the HIPPER class cruiser in dry dock and 3 hits on a destroyer, and hits on other shipping in port.

Operations in Bay of Biscay

At 0935 today a Sunderland left Mount Batten to search for the Italian U-Boat reported yesterday, but failed to find her. Two Beauforts were sent at 0855 to carry out further attacks. One unsuccessfully attacked a 3000 ton tanker during the afternoon, 50 miles off Lorient, but neither the U-Boat nor the large tanker reported yesterday were seen.

Enemy Air Activity

Attack on Bristol

ROCKROSE (Corvette) and BARONIA (boom vessel) were slightly damaged in an air attack on Bristol last night.

Ramsgate was attacked this afternoon. No Naval damage is reported.

Enemy air activity today was on a very small scale. SS COITY CASTLE was attacked off the Shipwash this morning. No damage is reported.

Convoy F.N. 75 was unsuccessfully attacked this afternoon in the Thames Approaches.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.1.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Two more mines were self detonated off Liverpool during the 24 hours ending 1800/4.

Rosyth was closed at 2255 owing to suspected minelaying.

South Atlantic

Cape Verde Is.

On 29/11, 30/11 and 10/12 there were indications of the presence of submarines in the area south and west of Cape Verde Is., though no sinkings occurred in that area. Since 6/11 the majority of traffic has been routed to the East of Cape Verde Is. and it is possible the submarines were operating to the west when traffic was previously routed. Submarines have now located the traffic to the east of the Islands, sinkings having occurred on 21/12, 27/12, 31/12, 2/1 and possibly 24/12.

C. in C., S.A. suggests that the major part of the traffic should be routed west of Cape Verde Is. for the present to avoid the relative conjestion at the narrow part of the present route immediately east of the islands.

D/F bearings indicate an enemy surface unit near 27° 30' S., 6° 0' W., at 2107 G.M.T. today.

Mediterranean

Last night, Wellingtons heavily attacked Tobruk, reporting explosions and fires. Tobruk and Bardia were attacked today. Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols throught today between Bardia and Tobruk. Enemy fighters were active in large numbers, and 4 and probably 5 were shot down.

/Photographic....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.1.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Photographic reconnaissance confirms that Wellington aircraft sank a 10,000 ton merchant vessel in Tripoli harbour on 1/1.

East Indies

CHANTALA this morning bombarded Bulhar in British Somaliland. CHANTALA was bombed at 0700 and 0821, before and after the bombardment, but was undamaged.

China

Visits of French ships to Hong Kong and Singapore and sailings to French Indo-China ports may be resumed on certain conditions.

Australia

A mine was exploded in sweep today in the approaches to Hobart.

MOST SECRET.

4. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Refit of HOOD.

Your 1923/3. Approved, subject to no change taking place in readiness of German Heavy Ships. (C.N.S. 0089/4 to C. in C. H.F.)

HIPPER-class Cruiser at Brest.

Your 0208. The use by enemy of French ports would make our problem so great that it is imperative that our maximum effort should be applied to deter him. I would urge as strongly as I can that the opportunity now offered should be exploited to the limit of our resources until cruiser is destroyed. I include in our resources the full effort of the bomber command. (C. in C. H.F. 1201/4 to Adty.)

Iceland.

Intentions. (1st. S.L. 1453/4 to F.O.I.C. Iceland, War Office 3010/4.)
See Operations Volume.

Meeting 4th Prime Minister.

A.M. 1728/1. Confirmed at 1100/10. Request you or your representative attend. (1st. S.L. 1755/4 to C.s-in-C, A.C.O.S, V.A. Dover.)

Your 1728/1. Following proposed for Agenda. (C. in C. W.A. 3108/4 to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

Oban.
Defence of Convoy Anchorage.

Request you sail ARETHUSA to relieve NAIAD at about 1200/5. AURORA will relieve ARETHUSA when ready. (C. in C. H.F. 1129/4 to C.S.2.) Four Bofors Guns should be mounted in place in next day or two. As soon as Guns are ready for action the A/A Cruiser can be withdrawn. (A.C.N.S.T. 1250/4 to C. in C. H.F.) ARETHUSA sailed Scapa 2130/4 for Oban. (A.C.O.S.2202/4.)

DELUGE.

At 1130/4. (D.C.1130/4 and 2015/4.)
At 2330/4. (D.C. 0011/5.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4. 1. 41.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

WOLFE. CILICIA. LETITIA. CHITRAL.	My 2140/3. WOLFE and CILICIA left Clyde 0430/4. LETITIA and CHITRAL. Keep to S. of them when approaching 61° N. 15° 31' W. (F.O.C.N.P. 0430/4.) WOLFE and CILICIA to R/V with destroyers in 59° 15' N. 8°12' W. at 1000/5. (F.O.C.N.P. 0940/4 to WOLFE.)
ICARUS. INTREPID.	Sailed Scapa 0215/4 as by R.A.D.H.F. 1900/3 (A.C.O.S. 0824/4.) To pass May Island 1400/4 and arrive Humber daylight /5. (C. in C. Rosyth 0947/4. to INTREPID.)
QUORN.	Sailed 0949 for Sheerness (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0957/4.) Arrived Sheerness 1404 for Chatham. (C. in C. Nore 1458/4.)
MANCHESTER CITY. SOUTHDOWN.	To leave Rosyth 2200/5 and arrive Tyne daylight/6. MANCHESTER CITY cannot anchor. (C. in C. Rosyth 1003/4.) My 1003/4. Delayed 24 hours. Will leave Rosyth 2200/6. (C. in C. Rosyth 1505/4.)
CALIFORNIA. ARGUS. KENYA.	CALIFORNIA leave Patrol to R/V with ARGUS and KENYA in 55° N. 22' W. at 1000/10 B.S.T. for inward A/S Escort to Clyde through 50° N. 25° 30' W. Course approaching R/V should be 060°. (F.O.C.N.P. 1030/4.)
SCIMITAR.	Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1241/4.)
JUPITER, KASHMIR.	Arrived Plymouth 1040. (C. in C. W.A. 1312/4.)
PHOEBE.	Arrived Scapa 1400/4. (A.C.O.S. 1507/4.)
Northern Patrol.	Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A. C.O.S. 1536/4.)

/ OTTAWA .....

MOST SECRET.

4. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

OTTAWA, GARLAND. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1640/4.)

PRINCE OF WALES. My 1712/1. To be sailed to pass Bar Light Vessel at 1845/31. Should arrive Inchkeith 1700/33 or as diverted by C. in C. Rosyth. Speed about 15 knots. Nucleus crew and only guns manned will be pom-poms. C. in C. H.F. to provide Surface Ship and A/S Escort. Request Fighter Escort in daylight hours. (A.C.N.S.H.1640/4. to C. in C. H.F.)

ANTHONY. Sailed for Liverpool. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1830/4.) Precautions at Liverpool. All channel lights extinguished.(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2150/4 to ANTHONY.)

HOOD. Expect arrive with 4 Destroyers 0830/5. (F.O.C. 1st. B.C.S.1927/4 to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

Gun-fire off Falmouth. Gunfire reported about 10 miles E.S.E. of Falmouth at 0215/4. Investigate, keeping clear of Q.Z.Y.174.(C. in C. W.A. 0240/4 to JERSEY, JUPITER.)

Your 0240. My position 49° 55' N. 5° 8'W. steering 255° at 26 knots. JUPITER has one boiler defective. Temporary repairs in hand. (KASHMIR 0400/4 to C. in C. W.A.) Return to Plymouth. (C. in C.W.A. 0732/4 to KASHMIR, JUPITER.) JUPITER, KASHMIR arrived Plymouth 1040. (C. in C. W.A. 1322/4.)

MINNIE DE LARRINAGA. My 1040/3. Programme postponed further 24 hours owing to eather. (C. in C. Nore 0920/4 to F.O.I.C. London.) Torpedo Equipment Officer, London, reports as follows as to equipment. (F.O.I.C. London 1700/4 to V.A. Dover.)

A/S Patrol to North of Shetlands. 2 A/S Trawlers left Kirkwall 1430/4 to maintain an A/S Patrol between Muckle Flugga and 61° 51' N. 0° 54' W, returning to Kirkwall AM/5. (A.C.O.S.1725/4.)

MOST SECRET.

4. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy Tanker. 3 Blenheims will be patrolling in about 47° N. 7° W. from 0900/4 to 1400/4. 2 Beauforts proceeding to arrive 20 miles due West of Gironde at 0900, sweeping thence to Westward in search of Tanker. (C. in C.W.A.0242/4. and 0514/4 to KELVIN, KIPLING.) Blenheim A/C will meet you at daylight. (C. in C.W.A. 0410/5 to KELVIN, KIPLING.) My 1902/3 and 2120/3. (Report of Italian S/M.). Sunderland is leaving at 0930/4 to search for damaged S/M. South of 46° N. and S.W. of a line 130° from 46° 30' N. 7° W. (C. in C.W.A. 0854/4. to KELVIN, KIPLING.) One M/V bearing 090° 5 miles, course 040°. My position 47° 20'N.4° 40' W. (A/C. 218 Sqdn. 1015/4 to 91 Wing H.Q.) At 1015 Tanker in 47° 20' N. 4° 30'W, course 040°. At 0950 by D/F. damaged Italian S/M in 45° N. 4° W. (V.A.S.1136/4 to S/M's Area B.) My 1108. Attack damaged S/M. Sunderland is co-operating. (C. in C.W.A.1233/4 to KELVIN, KIPLING.) My 1015/40. This M/V is not the Tanker reported in my 2200/3 as proceeding to Gironde.(C. in C. W.A.1244/4 to KELVIN, KIPLING and 1733/4. to Adty.) My 1233. Owing to presence of TALISMAN , S/M may only be attacked if on surface or definitely established as hostile when submerged. (C. in C.W.A.1854/4 to KELVIN, KIPLING.) Your 1233. Unable to comply. My position at 1300 was 45° 50' N. (??°)42'W, steering North at 19 knots. 2 A/C shadowing Fuel remaining 200 Tons. Weather. (KELVIN 1315/4 to C. in C.W.A.) Cancel my 1233. (C. in C. W.A.1533/4 to KELVIN, KIPLING.) 3 Blenheims are now being sent to you. (C. in C. W.A.1544/4 to KELVIN, KIPLING.

Submarines.

SEAWOLF. Arrived Rothesay with PHILANTE. (S.7.0026/4.)

SEALION. Fro Havet only patrolled. Report. (SEALION 0410/4 to V.A.S.)

UNBEATEN. Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1253/4.)

TAKU/

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4. 1. 41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines Contd.

TAKU. Sailed from Troon, escorted by NORLAND, at 1330 (N.O.I.C.Ardrossan 1347/4.)

L. 23. Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1407/4.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1645/4.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/5. (V.A.S. 1732/4.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. 2 Blenheims on protective Patrol from Dyce at 0900 to Flamborough Head and return. (C. in C. Rosyth 0902/4.)
Air Patrols today: 1808 both A.M. and P.M., STAND. P.M., UNST., and FAIR. (C. in C. Rosyth 0926/4.)

Enemy Air Activity.

COITY CASTLE. (British, 2762 Tons.) Bombed and machine-gunned off the Shipwash. (Lyness 0819/4.)

F.N.75. Convoy. Enemy bombing in 51° 30' N. 1° 15' E. No hits. (VANITY 1330/4 and 1335/4.) Fighters being sent (Nore W/T.1537/4.)

Bristol
BARONIA
and
ROCKROSE
damaged. Details of damage in Air-Raid last night. Boom Vessel BARONIA has about 30 feet of side-plating torn out and is shifted on block. Corvette ROCKROSE shell plating holed by splinters. Launch of Corvette MIMOSA postponed. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1751/4.)

Ramsgate. Attacked by one A/C at 1440/4. Considerable damage to houses, 3 civilians killed, 13 seriously injured. Alert sounded about 2 minutes after last Bomb dropped. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1813/4.)

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Kinnaird Head to Aberdeen. Search of War Channel.

Weather permitting intend 19th Group to patrol A H and A I on completion of sweep at 2330/4/1 thence R/V position 110 Degs. 6 miles Cruden Scaurs at 0900/5/1 and sweep East side of War Channel ahead of E.N.51 to position 000° 14 Kinnaird Head. Expected time of arrival 1600/5/1. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1115/4. to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Weather permitting intend sailing 12th M/S Group, rendezvous Scurdy Ness at 2300/4. Search east side War Channel ahead of E.N, 51 to Cruden Scaurs then return to Aberdeen. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1228/4 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

North Rona Iceland Minefield.

Your 1330/3. I have been unable to obtain a complete answer to my 1155/16/12. (Requesting copy of Report and Survey.) This information is of urgent importance to enable me to form an opinion as to the effectiveness of Minefields laid in the water between North Rona and Iceland. If as I suspect the efficiency of these minefields is very low, then I Consider them of doubtful value and possibly as a serious obstruction to operation of our forces while (group omitted) no serious threat to enemy. (C. in C. H.F. 1159/4. to Adty.)

S.N.71.

RAML. 1641/1. Escorts and covering Force not available on date proposed. Further signal will be made. (C. in C. H.F. 1438/4. to RAML.)

B.S.48.

Intend sail from Spurn Point at 1415/6 and take departure from 21.D.Buoy at 1030/7, returning to 21.D.Buoy. Laying will begin at 1230/7. (S.O.M/L., Immingham 1539/4.)

Liverpool.

In 48 hours ending 1800/4 two Mines self-detonated, one in 266° Bar Light Vessel 7.6 miles, and one in 018° Bar Light Vessel 1.25 miles. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1817/4.)

Rosyth.

Port closed from Inchkeith East Gate to No.1. Reflector Buoy in Q.Z.S.175, owing to suspected minelaying. (C. in C. Rosyth 2255/4.)

MOST SECRET.

4. 1. 40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.	Air R/C on 3/1 indicates HIPPER-class Cruiser in dry-dock. (D.D.I.C. 0208/4 to C. in C. H.F.) Following information received at 1400. (C. in C.W.A.1436/4 to Adty. Information on 2/1 and 4/1. (D.D.I.C. 1527/4.)
Brest. Lorient. St. Nazaire. Bordeaux.	Following is latest intelligence of Bay of Biscay area. (V.A.S. 2134/4 to S/M's Area B.)
E-Boat.	One War Motor Boat bearing 130° from St. Albans, distance 4 miles. (Portsmouth W/T. 2240/4.)

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CAVINA. (Ocean Boarding Vessel) Paravane bracket broken and lost. Searchlight reflector smashed. (CAVINA 0600/4 to F.O.C.N.P.)

TENACITY. (Rescue Tug) W/T receiving gear out of action. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1600/4 to Adty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Positions (D.T.D. 1116/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

H.X.97.

CERINTHUS arrived vicinity Mersey.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1046/4)

H.G.50.

Your 1336/3. H.G.50 R.V. S.L.S.61 (dates and positions)(F.O.C.N.A., 1058/4 to Admty.)
H.G.50 due to sail 8/1 to conform with Admty. 2017/21/12 now confirmed by Admty. 1336/3. Request SCARBOROUGH be ordered Gibraltar forthwith at best possible speed. (F.O.C.N.A., 1140/4, to C.in C. W.A.) Comply with F.O.C.N.A's 1140/4 (C.in C. W.A. to SCARBOROUGH, 1508/4) List (F.O.C.N.A. 1633/4)

O.B.O. 269.

Sailed 0330/4. Escort WILLARD. 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1138/4) Route (D.T.D., 2153/4).

F.N. 73.

Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1110/4).

F.N. 75.

Sailed 0945/4, 30 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1218/4) 11 ships and 6 trawlers from Humber joining at Outer Dowsing (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1702/4) Destinations (N.C.S.O. Thames 1556/4).

H.X. 100.

Date and route. Escort COMORIN returns to Halifax. (D.T.D. to C.in C. W.A. 1239/4) Request particulars of sailing orders to STANDELLA. (D.T.D., to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

W.N. 64.

1305/4. H.M.T's SOUTHERN PRIDE, HORNPIPE, (N.C.S.O., Greenock, 140./4).

BELGRAVIAN, Hull. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1417/4) W.N.64(0) 1330/4, 14 ships unescorted. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1835/4) Add my 1417/4 HELENUS (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1517/4).

O.B. 271.

Route. (D.T.D. 1428/4).

O.B. 270.

O.B.C. 270 sails 0001/6. O.B.O. 270 sails 0400/6. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1448/4)

C.E.21.

List. (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth, 1637/4) Sailed as in my 1547/3 less one M.V. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1607/4).

W.N. 66.

Code "Chitty". 1330/7. Escorts LADY ROSEMARY, MORRIS DANCE, 6 ships (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1657/4).

/ F.N. 74. ....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

F.N. 74. — List (N.C.S.O. Number 1659/4) To join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0714/4).

S.L. 60. — Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D., 1918/4).

E.N. 51. — List (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1936/4).

H.X. 99. F.S. 79 8 M.V. 9 M.V. — Route from new R.V. (D.T.D. 2154/4). Sailed 2345/4. 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2358/4) C.in C. Portsmouth's 1903/3 (8 M.V's) arrived. Your 1327/3, all arrived less PARKNASILLA. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1153/4 to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth). My 1153 PARKNASILLA arrived at 1515/4 (1607/4).

H.X.102. — Your 1319/3. Date and route (N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1135/4 C.O.A.C. Halifax 1535/4 C.O.A.C. Halifax 1535/4 to Admty. etc.).

S.L. 59. — Admty. 1914/16/12. Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1640/4).

S.C. 19. — Date and route. (D.T.D., 1709/4 to C.O.A.C., Halifax).

O.B.M.270. — 1737/4. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. 3. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1745/4). List (N.C.S.O., Milford Haven, 1845/4).

H.X. 98. S.C. 18. — Ref. 1904/3 from Admiralty. (Convoy escort duties for LACONIA and REVENGE) LACONIA is not to leave H.X.98 until relieved by REVENGE who is to make contact in daylight hours. REVENGE inform LACONIA estimated position course and speed of S.C.18. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 0758/4).

O.B. 269. — Londonderry departures 4/1 LA MALOUINE SHIKARI, SARDONYX, ANEMONE, VIZALMA WELLARD, LADY ELSA, ST. ZENO, ST. KEENAN, for O.B.269. (N.C.S.O. Londonderry, 1020/4 to Admty.)

W.N. 64. W.N. 63. — My 1422/3. Para. three is cancelled owing to delay in sailing of W.N.64. Return to Scapa after parting company with W.N. 63. (F.O. (D) H.F. 1030/4 to CURACOA).

Scapa departure 0930 CURACOA and 1020 FOWEY for escort of convoy W.N.63. (A.C.O.S. 1052/4).

O.B. 268. — Greek MICHAELIS engine trouble 1625/3 Madeira temporary repairs proceeded dead slow 1900. ARBUTUS stood by lost touch 2358. Proceeding to overtake O.B.268 Latitude 57.01, Longitude 13.30 (Weather). (ARBUTUS, 1100/4, to C.in C.W.A.).

/ S.C. 17. .....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

S.C.17. — Amended rendezvous for S.C.17. 1000/5. 055°, 54° 30' N., 17° 33' W. 055° 7 knots. Then as in my 0702/3. (C.in C. W.A., 1158/4 to VETERAN, ERICA, WOLVERINE, ARBUTUS, DEPTFORD, DELPHINIUM.

F.S. 78. — Number 4/1 departure L L Trawler ORIZABA at 1130 to join F S 78 thence Yarmouth. (F.O. Humber, 1322/4).

O.B.270. — Sailed ABERDEEN for A/S practice then to escort O.B.270. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1530/4).

Sailed CAMPANULA escort for O B C 270. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1818/4).

Independent Sailings. — Sailing of fast independently routed ships. These ships are required by Admiralty's 1340/29/10/40 to be sailed so that they will pass longitude 10.00' W. at 1800. Since these ships are now routed much farther North before reaching 10.00' W., submit that 200 miles from Oversay Light may be substituted for 10.00' W. This is also a convenient distance from Liverpool for making a daylight departure. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1606/4 to Admty.)

F.N. 74. — FN 74 part 2 expected time of arrival 20C buoy 0300/5. (HASTINGS, 1640/4).

E.N. 52. — (A) 2200/5. (B) H.M.T's KING SOL SOUTHERN GEM. Additional escort H.M.S. FLEETWOOD. (C) 18 ships (9 overseas) (G) Code Words:- E.N. 52 PADDLE E.N.L. Portion MONITOR E.N.O. Portion MIXTURE. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1653/4).

8 M.V's — My 1939/3. Sailed 8 MV's Tanker did not sail Escorts ST. CATHAN and JASPER. CARIBIA (Dutch) for Newlyn leaves Group to arrive Lamorna Cove 0900/5. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1725/4).

E.N. 52. W.N. 65. — Act as additional A/A escort to E N 52 sailing at 2200/5. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail FLEETWOOD to join W N 65 due Duncansby Head 1630/8. Code word for E.N.52 PADDLE and W.N. 65 MUSTER. (C.in C. Rosyth 1801/4 to FLEETWOOD).

/ O.B. 269. ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

O.B. 269. To avoid U-Boat in 59 degs. 30' N. 20 degs. 00' W. cancel route after position (A) and substitute (C) 60 30 N 14 20 W. (D) 61.30 19.00 (E) 60.30 25.00 Omit (B) if not already passed. Commodore should warn all ships in convoy that in case of separation from convoy they should keep North of 61 degs. 00' N. until West of 22 degs. 00' W. (C.in C. W.A. 2218/4 to LA MALOUINE (for Commodore). SHIKARI, SARDONYX, ANEMONE.

H.X.99. H.X.99 steer to pass through following positions A 025° 155 miles from "LARK" B R/V at 0900 G.M.T./7 in 062° 215 miles from "LARK" C 089° 238 miles from "LARK" D 135° 105 miles from final position E splitting in 135° 307 miles from final position. Route is amended to avoid U boat in 059° 30' North 020° 00' W. (Admiral Devonport to V.A. Parker PENRITH CASTLE 2234/4).

To avoid U-Boat in 59 degs. 30' N. 20 degs. 00' W. amended route for H.X.99 From 59 degs. 30' N. 30 degs. 00' W. Through (A) 61 degs. 00' N. 20 degs. 00'W. (B) Rendezvous in 60 degs. 20' N. 16 degs. 00' W. at 0900 G.M.T. 7th January. (C) 60 degs. 05' N. 15 degs. 00' W. (D) 58 degs. 20' N. 13 degs. 23' W. (E) Split in 56 degs. 00' N. 09 degs. 00' W. ALAUNIA after leaving convoy report when well clear if above has been passed to Commodore. (C.in C. W.A., 2248/4 to ALAUNIA for Commodore).

8 M.V's. Intend sailing at 1800/5. 6 M/Vs for Needles Channel. 2 M/Vs for Poole. Request escort be arranged. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 2236/4 to C.in C. W.A.)

Procedure after raider attack. Procedure of ships in convoy after scattering from surface raider attack is not definitely stated. Alternatives are (1) R.V. with Commodore during next 48 hours at positions previously signalled by him, (2) proceed at best speed to destination, (3) return to assembly port. Should be impressed on masters that action (1) should normally be taken. Ultimate decision must, however, rest with individual masters, taking into consideration the risks involved. (D.T.D.,1907/4 to N.C.S.O's).

Iceland. Refuelling at Hvalfjord of escorts for HX and OB Convoys. (D.T.D., 2232/4 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ A/S Protection to ....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

A/S Protection to Convoys, New Scheme.

Following on the widening of the homeward bound convoy cycles and consequent saving in escort hours, consideration has been given to the most economical method of extending A/S protection particularly in the current moonlight period. The following scheme should give additional protection and it is requested that it may be given a trial forthwith.

2. It is proposed that corvettes should leave the O.B. convoys at dusk on the 3rd day as at present but proceed at best speed to meet the homeward bound convoy at daylight, or later according to weather, one day further West than at present. Destroyers will continue with O.B. for the night of the 3rd day crossing over in daylight to meet the incoming convoy before dark one night further West than at present.

3. O.B. Convoys would therefore sail 24 hours earlier relative to homeward convoys.

4. For 24 hours additional steaming by A/S escort there will accrue 24 hours additional destroyer escort by night when most required and 24 hours additional corvette escort for the homeward convoys part of which will be by day when most required.

5. By this scheme corvettes should normally reach nearly as far West as the vicinity in which the A.M.C. ocean escort parts company thus filling the existing escort gap.

6. It is suggested that commencing with O.B.271 sialing dates should be advanced 1 day in order to enable the scheme to be started.

(D.T.D.1916/4 to C.in C. W. Approaches).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Troop Convoys.

W.S.5.B.

Admiralty's 2350/23 and 2340/31,(1) R.A. (D) is requested to sail two destroyers to arrive Clyde A.M./7 to form part of A/S escort for convoy W.S. 5B sailing from Clyde P.M./7. Destination on completion Scapa. (2) PHOEBE is to sail as convenient to join C.S. 15 at Clyde A.M./7 and form A/A Escort for same convoy. Intended time of sailing and expected time of arrival Clyde to be reported.(C. in C. H.F. 1347/4, to R.A.D. PHOEBE.)

Admiralty 2251/ Intend sailing ARAWA for Clyde 6/1. Request route for W.S.5B and subsequent route for ARAWA after leaving convoy. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1513/4, to C. in C. W. A.)

VANSITTART is to sail at 1630/5, and proceed to Barry Roads. F.O.I.C. Cardiff is requested to sail VANSITTART as escort to Bristol Channel portion of Convoy W S 5B. After making R/V in accordance with N.C.S.O. Mersey's 1058/5 VANSITTART is to fuel at Lough Foyle and rejoin convoy. VANSITTART report expected time of arrival Barry before sailing.(C. in C.W.A. 1552/4. to F.O.I.C. Cardiff. VANSITTART.)

My 2350/23, 2340/31 and 2341/31, CAPETOWN CASTLE will leave W.S.5B, at rendezvous "Y" proceeding to Gibraltar with MONARCH OF BERMUDA, FEARLESS and FORESIGHT.(D. & D.(F) 1324/4, to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F. etc.

/GEORGIC.....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.

Troop Convoy Contd.

GEORGIC
WARWICK CASTLE.

ty 1248/31 and your 0808/31. If escort is available for GEORGIC and WARWICK CASTLE on return voyage to U.K. 4500 can be embarked at Halifax 19th and 30th January. Request early advice if this is your intention or if independent sailings can 300 be embarked in each ship. Also please state if these ships are both available for cargoes to U.K.(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1042/4.)

Admiralty's 2231/3. Consider that 4 destroyers will be minimum escort for RAMILLIES, GEORGIC and WARWICK CASTLE. 2. As these can only be provided from 5th D.F. C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to say whether PUNJABI can be spared for part of this escort. She would be detached on REVENGE nearing the Minches. 3. Even 1th the assistance of PUNJABI there will only be three of 5th D.F. left in the channel. 1884/4.

MOST SECRET.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders.

Appreciation.

Summary of raider appreciation for 1940 which is being included in W.I.R. (D.N.I. 1951/4 to "A" Message Home and Abroad) Full text of message in Lion copy only.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

CHANTILLY etc. French Crews and Passengers.

Report if any Spanish ship is likely to take passengers of CHANTILLY and pro-Vichy members of crews of that ship, SUROIT and OCTANE to Oran if H.M.G. decide to seize these ships. (D.E.W.D. 1233/4 to F.O.C.N.A).

Report urgently if any Portuguese ship available now or within next week to take about 600 French passengers and ratings from Gibraltar to Oran. (D.E.W.D. 1234/4 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

Your 1233/4. No Spanish ships are likely to be available in the near future to take these passengers to Oran.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1614/4 to Admty).

British Seaman Removed from SALLY MAERSK.

Frederick Stanley Milthorp age 21 serving as deck boy in SALLY MAERSK was removed that ship by French authority at Dakar on or about 21/10 and alleged as being of military age. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1725/4 to Admty for M. of S.).

CHANTILLY Convoy (intercepted 1/1/41). Press Communique.

Your 2355/3. The first part of my 1024/3 reads "In order to dispel rumours circulating locally, press is agitating for the issue of a communique". All 4 ships CHANTILLY, SALLY MAERSK, OCTANE and SUROIT, have now arrived Gibraltar. No other incidents occurrred beyond the unforthnate accident when CHANTILLY was boarded. Obstruction to boarding by CHANTILLY was mainly due to attitude of Master and Chief Officer. No obstruction was met with in the case of the other 3 ships. My 1516/3 deals with position regarding SALLY MAERSK. So far as the other 3 ships are concerned it is unlikely that there will be many of crews or passengers wishing to join Free French movement. General view of passengers and crew in CHANTILLY appears to be that responsibility of unfortunate accident rests with the Master and Chief Officer for obstructing boarding.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1830/4 to Admty).
/ W.R. Note. This referred to "Vice Consul" and is now corrected to read "Press".

/French.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (contd)

French Repatriees.

My 0135/27 and A.T. 1928/31. Following took passage in Portuguese s.s. GUINE from Freetown to-day 4/1 for Casablanca. (A) 322 Naval reservists and 83 Mercantile Marine personnel from CUBA. (B) 50 Mercantile Marine personnel from INDOCHINOIS. (2) 15 Officers 30 P.O.'s and 70 other Ratings now remain and await repatriation in Portuguese s.s. COLONIAL.
(C. in C. S.A. 1951N/4 to Admty).

North Atlantic.

C.S.10.
CLEMATIS.
IMPERIALIST
LOCH OSKAIG
CAMITO.

C.S.10's 1904/3. Pass through position 035° 50'N. 007° 00'W. searched channel at Gibraltar is maintained: (details). CLEMATIS to adjust speed to arrive off northern entrance to Gibraltar at 0800/5. IMPERIALIST on patrol off Cadiz. LOCH OSKAIG proceeding to patrol off Lisbon. CAMITO expecting to arrive Gibraltar a.m./5 from patrol in area between 033° 40' 010° 45'W. 032° 00', 009° 50', 030° 20', 013° 40', 032° 10', 014° 40'.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0602/4 to C.S.10. CLEMATIS).

SURPRISE.

Your 1808/1. Radius of action of SURPRISE at 10 knots is 4000 miles, request I may be informed if arrangements can be made for SURPRISE to fuel at Ponta Delgada on passage to Freetown.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0813/4 to Admty).

Raider Action.
Press Reports.

Your 1550/3 re endersement of articles by Press representatives with Force "H". This is much regretted and immediate action is being taken to prevent recurrences.
(S.O. Force H. 0850/4 to Admty).

/CAMITO.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (contd).

CAMITO.

Your 2300/3. Adjust speed to arrive off Northern entrance Gibraltar at 0900 Z. - 1/5/1. CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN, JONQUIL, GERANIUM escorting EMPIRE TROOPER position course and speed 1200/4 036° 00'N., 007° 52'W. 095° 7 knots, routed through 035° 50'N, 007° 00'W. expected time of arrival Gibraltar 0800/5 IMPERIALIST on patrol off Cadiz. LOCH OSKAIG proceeding patrol off Bay.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1030/4 to CAMITO).

Operation "Excess".

I am assuming in spite of observations contained in Admiralty letter NL 14593/40 of (? Dec) 20 1940 the instructions contained in clause 625 of fighting instructions still hold good to extent that action taken by escorting force in operation EXCESSS to engage enemy surface vessels must not be such as to jeopardize seriously the safe arrival of convoy at its destination. Paragraph one of C. in C. Med. (? 1023/9 Dec) refers.
(S.O. Force H. 1040/4 to Admty).

TRIDENT.
OLYMPUS.

Position of S/M's at 0800/5 and movements for the following 24 hours are as follows.
(A) TRIDENT off Ponta Delgada.
(B) OLYMPUS 036° 10'N. 018° 30'W.
course 285° 10 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1532/4).

KENYA.

Gibraltar Arrival 1610/4 F.O.C. 10th C.S. in KENYA
(S.O.I. Gib. 1612/4).

SURPRISE.

My 1808/1 and F.O.I.C. Greenock's 0813/4. A/S yacht SURPRISE is to call at Ponta Delgada. Arrangements for visit and fuelling will be made by Admiralty.
(D.O.D.(F) 1852/4 to C. in C.W.A.).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE.
BALTAVIA.
ASTURIAS.
CUMBERLAND.

Fuelling and storing completed. Expected time arrival (?rendesvous) 2030Z/4. BALTAVIA has been ordered to Orange and Oiler ARNDALE to remain F.O. ASTURIAS. took in stores and transferred personnel stores annd mails to BALTAVIA at F.O. p.m./3 and returned to patrol. Cot case with sick berth attendants transfeered to BALTAVIA. BALTAVIA need not enter harbour until 48 hours after CUMBERLAND has stored.
(NEWCASTLE 0503Z/4 to R.A.S.A.D).

STIRLING CASTLE.

S.S.T.O. Egypt 1721/1. N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1131/3 (request STIRLING CASTLE be ordered to proceed to Durban) Request decision.
(S.N.O. R.S. 0730Z/4 to D. of S.T.).

DEVON.

Overdue Shipping British Ship DEVON due Capetown 30/12 from United Kingdom not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1125B/4).

CANTON.

CANTON is to pass 1730/4 and proceed position 005° 00'N. 020° 00'W. thence to patrol as follows: H.34 B 2 day, H. 34 A 2 day, H. 33 B.A.C.D.1 day each, 1 33B 1 day, 1 34 A and B 1 day each then returns to Freetown. Object of route is to keep ships as far as possible in neighbourhood of ships known to be on passage in area.
(C. in C. S.A. 1135/4 to CANTON).

Departures 1730/4 CANTON on patrol in accordance with C. in C. South Atlantic's 1135N/4.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1753/4).

/TRIBESMAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

TRIBESMAN. Your 1150B/2 TRIBESMAN due Capetown 14/12. No further news.
(D.T.D. 1238/4 to S.O.I. Capetown).

W.S.5A. My 1744/27. (re transports etc. D. of S.T. arrange bunkering and watering) Delete EMPIRE TROOPER and MAHSEER.
(D. of S.t. 1409/4 to C. in C's S.A., E.I. Med. etc).

Treatment of French Merchant Ships. Admiralty's 0042/3 (see Vichy French) Request S.A.D. Station may be informed whether preamble and para. 2 (a) should be taken as cancelling limitations imposed in Admiralty 2315/15. Early information of date and scope of sweep referred to in para.5 of Admiralty 0229 preceding will greatly help.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1425/4 to C. in C. S.A).

ASTURIAS. For Minister - please obtain permission for ASTURIAS to enter Monte Video for 24 hours on 7/1. For Consul - (requirements).
(C.C. S.A.D. 14412/4 to S.O.I Montivideo)

Suspicious Ship. Master of Norwegian tanker NUEVA ANDALUCIA from Texas to Rio de Janeiro reports before dawn 23/12 when 40 miles south south west of Tobago Island he sighted well lighted vessel which followed him until morning 27/12 when 500 miles N.E. of Amazon mouth despite attempt to shake her off. Vessel had appearance of Norwegian tanker FENJA but was painted grey had one funnel with red band, streamlined bridge small mast on bridge to carry aerial.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1615/4).

/Shipping.....

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

Shipping Routes to avoid U/Boats.

On 29/11 and 30/11 and again on 10/12 there was indication of presence of submarines in area south to west of the Cape Verde Islands, but as far as is known no sinkings took place in that area. Majority of traffic has been routed to east of Cape Verde Is. from 6/11. Possibly submarines were looking for traffic to west where it had previously been. Submarines have now located the traffic to the east of the Islands as shown by the sinkings on 21st 27th and 31st/12 and 2/1 and possibly 24/12. Suggested that major part of traffic should be routed west of Cape Verde Is. for the present to avoid the relative congestion at the narrow part of the present route immediately east of the Verde Islands, and neighbourhood north and south. Propose that northbound traffic should be routed to westward at once.
(C. in C. S.A. 1643N/4 to Admty).

BRITISH ZEAL.

C. in C. S.A. 1719/4. See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

NEPTUNE
FURIOUS
ISIS
ENCOUNTER
DELHI.

My 2015/3 to NEPTUNE only, fuelling Takoradi not practicable. Leave patrol so as to arrive Lagos a.m./7 for fuel. After fuelling proceed to give cover to FURIOUS escorted by ISIS and ENCOUNTER expected to be off Takoradi 8/1. DELHI conducting flying operations A.M. will be inside territorial waters. On completion of flying operations accompany FURIOUS and DELHI to Freetown as additional escort.
(C. in C. S.A. 1813Z/4 to NEPTUNE).

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

W.S. 5A.
DEVONSHIRE
Force K.
Sweep.

1. Anticipate DVONSHIRE will join convoy WS 5A. 350 miles 145 deg. from Freetown. Propose Force K. then carry out a sweep based on following route but all detailed route dependent on information received and movements of shipping. Route lower half of H.35 H.34 then I 34 J 33 to K 33 (date). While in J 33 and K 33 if information required longer operation in area ships could fuel at Rio de Janeiro but not considered desirable unless necessity arises. From K. 33 proceed to St. Helena to arrive when fuel is required. Fuel in oiler will be there and it should be possible to send 100 Octance spirit as well in small oiler if required. Then through I 35 and H 35 to Freetown or as situation decides. R.A.S.A.D. and division to move North East from Plate area to arrive southern edge of K. 33 about time force K arrives centre of K 33. Considered no object in these 2 forces meeting unless situation requires in which case force not to then be used for combined sweep on South American side when refuelling of Force K at Rio de Janeiro might be necessary.
(C. in C. S.A. 1817/4 to Admty).

My 1817/4 refers to your 0229/31/12.
(C. in C. S.A. 2022/4 to Admty).

Shipping.
Zigzagging.

Reference AMSI 68 it appears that this is interpreted by some to mean that ships should not or need not zigzag in other areas. It is considered important that ships should zigzag on the whole route Freetown to U.K. and within 800 miles of Freetown in all directions. Propose AMSI be amended accordingly and instructions to this effect be given to Masters of ships through N.C.S.O.'s as soon as possible.
(C. in C. S.A. 1837/M/4 to Admty).

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Enemy Unit.

D/F Bearings indicate any enemy surface unit in vicinity of 027° 30'S. 006° 00'W. at 2107 G.M.T. 4/1. (C. in C. S.A. 2327N/4 to DEVONSHIRE).

By D/F on 8400 Kc/s at 2110/4 G.M.T. unidentified enemy unit probable surface vessel made signal of 36 groups T.O.O. 2043 begins NNYI NXLN. (D.D.I.C. 2356/4 to S.A. Station).

MOST SECRET.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Assistance to Italy. Reports from Rome, Palermo and Berne re German assistance to Italy of aircraft and troops. (Air Ministry 0540/4 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

Main Fleet. C.in C. Mediterranean, with VALIANT, BARHAM ILLUSTRIOUS and 9 destroyers, arrived at Alexandria 4/1 having bombarded Bardia during 3/1 The Fleet carried out a concentrated attack on enemy support trops, tanks and motor transport for 1½ hours, while secondary armaments of battleships and destroyers attacked coastal defences. No casualties or damage were sustained by our forces during these operations except for a few casualties in APHIS from a near miss. Units were attacked on several occasions by enemy aircraft but without success. (D.O.R.6/1).

NORTHERN PRINCE. Please inform me what personnel are in NORTHERN PRINCE. Admiralty's 0033/9/12 gave total 400. Admiralty's 1315/25/12 not to you gave these as Military and R.A.F. details for Malta. Admiralty's 1524/3 refers to (? 400) Naval passengers.
(V.A. Malta 0945/4 to S.O. Force H.)

REGENT TRUANT. My 2213/3 and 2215/3 No trace in W.R.) para.2. For 013° 50' East read 014° 50'East.
(V.A. Malta 1005/4 to TRUANT).

Bardia Operations Communique. Intend issuing following Communique in conjunction with other services.
(C.in C. Med. 1048/4 to Adty).

Final attack on Bardia. Naval bombardment support was given during attack on Bardia. Object was to disorganize enemy tank and M.T. forces in Northern sector of defence and to prevent them from supporting their troops during attack by Australians in Southern Sector.

(2) TERROR, APHIS, LADYBIRD (? H.M.S. NUBIAN) provided harassing fire on 2/1 as necessary between 0530 and 1600 on 3/1 WARSPITE,

/BARHAM.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Attack on Bardia.

BARHAM, VALIANT and destroyers carried out a heavy bombardment between 0810 and 0900. Ships' aircraft spotted and results appear from their reports to have been good. Destroyers and battleships secondary armament engaged coast defences and opportunity as received (? opportune) targets. ILLUSTRIOUS screened by 3rd C.S. provided fighter protection.

(3) Coastal batteries engaged battleships no figures beyond hit from few splinters no casualties. APHIS damaged by near miss two killed three wounded, LADYBIRD one wounded. No enemy aircraft attacked battle fleet but TERROR and gunboats bombed heavily though ineffectively several times. TERROR gunboats and (? 19th) division remain in support.
(C.in C. Med. 1145/4).

Operation "Excess".

F.O.C.N.A's 1706/24/12 not to C.S.3. and YORK. Patrol lines for daylight D.3. of EXCESS established as follows:-

UPHOLDER 038° 20'N., 007° 50' E to 038° (? 30') N., 009° 20'E., TRIUMPH 038° 15'N., 008° 40' E to 038° 20' N., 010° 10'E.

(ii) Submarines to be at Western ends of patrol at dawn D.3 proceeding as circumstances admit to reach vicinity Eastern ends about dusk. D.3. surfacing for brief periods if opportunity offers.

(ii) ? Submarines may leave patrol lines to act on air reconnaissance reports received direct and/or on M.S. routine, keeping outside (?) 300 fathom line.

(iv) Submarine attack first and report later.

(v) Patrol Boat unless identified for certain no submarine to be attacked day or night and no surface ship night D.2/D.3 and D.3/D.4.

(vi) Sanctuary established from 0001/D.3 between parallel 038° 00'N., and 039° 00'N and meridian 007° 00' E and 011° 30' E.

(vii) N.O.I.C.Malta is requested to: (a) Inform reconnaissance aircraft of sanctuary. (b) Route submarines to Malta after dusk D.3. (c) Cancel (? sanctuary).
(S.O.Force H, 1015/4 to C.in C. Med. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 4.1.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

"Excess" Convoy Escort.

Your 1630/3. I consider that it is essential that EXCESS convoy should be escorted by five destroyers through the Narrows. Request you confirm that two Force H destroyers will accompany convoy. No more can be spared from here, nor can I any longer provide a striking force in Narrows in accordance with my 1621/21. (C.in C. Med. 1033/4 to S.O.Force H.)

Your 1053/4. FIREDRAKE and JAGUAR will accompany Force 'F'. This will leave five destroyers to screen Force 'H' for return passage to Gibraltar.
(S.O.Force H, 1420/4 to C.in C. Med.)

Personnel.

Your 1333/3(Officers and Ratings to take passage to Mediterranean) M.L's 1032 and 1037 expected time of arrival Swansea 8/1. Officers and Ratings available for taking passage after arrival.

THORSHOLM.

On completion of discharge Oiler THORSHOLM is to be sailed to Port Said for inclusion in next southbound convoy for Admiralty Loading orders.
(C.in C. Med. 1148/4 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria etc.)

Landing Craft.

Your 1238/3. (address which stores and equipment for certain craft should be sent). C/O N.S.O. Port Said and marked H.M.S. STAG (Division K).
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1318/4 to Adty).

Air Report Bardia, Tobruk, Gazala.

Operational Summary No. 208 up to 1200 hours 4/1/1941. Night 2/3 January the bombing of Bardia was continued by heavy bomber Squadrons in preparation for the assault by the army early following morning. 3 Wellingtons and 2 bombays dropped 1600 pounds of bombs starting 1 large fire and a violent explosion within the fortified area and numerous small fires and explosions. Day 3/1 attacks by the medium bomber Squadrons on Italian landing grounds in E. Libya were resumed to prevent interference with out ground attack on Bardia by Italian aircraft operating from them. 30 Blenheims bombed Bardia, Tobruk and Gazala, hitting the landing ground at Gazala while bombs fell on the outskirts of Tobruk town.

/Hurricanes

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 4.1.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Air Report, Bardia, Tobruk, Gazala. Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols throughout the day between Tobruk and Bardia to cover our forward troops and F.A.A. spotter aircraft, 1 Hurricane intercepted 5 S.79's which were endeavouring to bomb H.M.S. TERROR 20 miles off Ras Uenna destroying 3 of them damaging a 4th. A previous attack by Italian bombers escorted by fighters on H.M.S. TERROR and other ships was not intercepted. Reconnaissances reported no movements between Derna and Tobruk but 4 small ships in Derna Harbour and 1 ship 300 anchored near Marakeb Island. Australian Gladiators co-operated with artillery in bombardment of Bardia. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1221/4).

Tobruk, Bardia advance. Part Two. Night 3/4 Jan. Tobruk heavily bombed by Wellingtons 2 aircraft reported number of explosions and fires, reports from remainder not yet received. G.H.Q. Middle East report fighting continuing in South East sector Bardia where enemy appear to be completely cut off 6000 prisoners captured with further numbers still being brought in.

2. GReece, day 3/1. No bombing operations 1 Sunderland patrolled South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy surface vessels.

3. Sudan, day 3/1. 1 Blenheim made offensive photographic reconnaissance of Massawa and Ahlak Archipelago, dropping bombs on main quays Massawa. 1 destroyer at quay possibly hit, photographs reveal 3 submarines and 4 destroyers in Massawa, 8 destroyers or sloops and 14 merchant ships anchored at Dahlak Island.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1222/4).

BONAVENTURE. My 1524/3. Should space be available any E.R.As or Signal and Telegraphist ratings now in EMPIRE TROOPER should also be included for passage to Alexandria.
(D.O.D.(F) 1550/4 to S.O. Force H.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 3/1 GLOUCESTER, YORK CALCUTTA, VOYAGER. Arrivals 4/1 C.in C. Mediterranean in WARSPITE, ILLUSTRIOUS, BARHAM, VALIANT, NUBIAN, MOHAWK, JANUS, JONO, DIAMOND, GALLANT, ILEX, DAINTY, GREYHOUND. Departures 4/1, VOYAGER, PROTECTOR. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1746/4)

MOST SECRET.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Cond.)

Taranto Nets.

Neutral Naval Attache whose report from Rome has just arrived states Italian Admiral gave order for removal of nets at Taranto two days before British attack. Leakage of this information was subsequently suspected and 24 arrests were made among Naval personnel, one warrant officer eventually being shot. (N.A. Stockholm, 1746/4 to Adty).

Malta Air Report, Weather, Damage to Sunderlands.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours G.M.T. 4/1. No air activity ours or enemy due weather.
During gale of 55 knots, etc., 4 Sunderlands moored at Marsaxloks were subjected to heavy pounding (details). All 4 boats unserviceable Repairs proceeding at speed.

Tripoli attack 1/1.

Recco. photos Tripoli taken on 2/1 and enlarged now show wellingtons 148 squadron on 1/1 sunk 1 10,000 ton M.V. which was anchored in mid-harbour. Salvage evidently attempted and M/V manouevred to quayside where it appears sunk near western side of harbour before it could be brought alongside. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta. 1800/4).

Greek Situation.

Urging that Greek command should be independent of Egypt. Military and air situation. (N.A.Athens 1935/4 to Adty.) See Mediterranean Volume.

PANDORA.

My 1531/29 and V.A.Malta 1335/3. Amend route as follows:

2. Report expected time of arrival at position Z. If unable to reach position Z by 1200/8 proceed to Malta as directed byV.A. Malta and await further orders. (Capt: S.1. 1941/4 to PANDORA).

MATHURA.

Freightship MATHURA sailed Swansea with important Government stores for Alexandria. (D. of S.T. 2229/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Raider Captives. Your 1900/2. No. (Report of British seamen at Mogadiscio).
(C.O.I.S. Far East, 0508Z/4 to Adty).

LYCAON. Naval freight ship LYCAON proceeding from position 010° S 053° E to Pensang at 13½ knots is expected to pass South of Tuskar Rock 6th January. Endeavour to locate and accompany her to 092° E. If not met leave longitude ADDU at dusk 6th and proceed position 005° N., 092° at 13½ knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 0618Z/4 to ANTENOR).

Kismayu. My 1006/23. Air photographs taken 28/12 and 2/1 reveal number of ships unchanged.
(C.in C. E.I. 0742Z/4 to Adty).

CHANTALA Bombed. CHANTALA was bombed at 0700 and 0821 G.M.T./4 five bombs no hits in first attack details of second attack not known.
In between attacks CHANTALA demolished resident's house at Bulhar (position 10° 28'N., 44° (? 4) W. CHANTALA who has now completed a reconnaissance with military G.R. is returning Aden.
(C.in C. E.I. 0944/4 to Adty).

My 0944/4. para.one. Second attack five bombs one close no damage.
(CHANTALA 1132/4).

Shipping Instruction. Following message passed to Admiralty for information. Ships proceeding independently in area three are to proceed at best possible speed and zigzag by day and in moonlight when in the following area. North of 010 degs. North and West of 050 degs. East excluding Persian Gulf waters.
(C.in C. E.I. 1128/4 to G.B.M.S. Area 3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 4.1.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Shipping Routes. For N.C.S.O. My O.B.M.S. message 1128/4 (Routeing of ships in Area 3) cancels my 0644/28/8. Inform reporting officer.

SHILLONG "Q" Report. 16/12. My 1416/23/12. (1) No ship in the vicinity of SHILLONG at 1520Z/12 has been able to confirm SHILLONG's report (2) Master of SHILLONG was questioned by S.O.(I) Capetown 3/1 and reports (a) His ship has new receiving set and he is not surprised at inferior receiving set not being able to pick up such a weak signal during bad atmosphere. (b) the distress message was made by a valve transmitter (c) He has great faith in his W/T. operator.
(C.in C. E.I. 1138Z/4 to A.C.N.B. etc.)

STRATHAIRD. My 0800/1 S.S.T.O. Egypt. (Port Said) 1855/31, D. of S.T. 2014/2. In view of C.in C. East Indies 0804/2. Request immediate confirmation that STRATHAIRD is for onward passage from Bombay to U.K. If so intend to embark R.I.N. draft in this ship at Bombay and not Aden.
(S.S.T.O. India, 0610Z/4 to S.S.T.O. Egypt D. of S.T.)

Your 0610/4. STRATHAIRD will now proceed to Bombay with prisoners of war instead of STRATHALLAN and as far as it is known then proceed to U.K. D. of S.T. is requested to confirm final destination. STRATHAIRD has no separate galley and Indian Crew Galley is only sufficient for crew therefore cooking arrangements for R.I.N. will have to be provided and fitted in Bombay. Failing this EMPRESS OF CANADA which has separate galley must be used ex Aden.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1215/4).

B.S.12½. Convoy B.S.12½ sailed from Suez 0400Z/4 route R.S.2. Speed of advance 12 knots. Escort H.M.A.S. YARRA convoy consisted of PRESIDENT DOUMER and REINA DEL PACIFICO, port of destination Peru for Port Sudan.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1243/4 to Adty).

B.N.11½. Convoy B.N.11½ arrived Suez a.m./4.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1247/4).

MOST SECRET.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

BARBETTE
BARNET.

Ref: 0534 from C.in C. E.I. 31/12. Intend sailing B.D.V. BARBETTE and B.D.V. BARNET for Aden via Khorya Morya Bay p.m./8.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 1342/4 to C.in C. E.I. S.N.O., P.G.)

Air
Report
Assab,
CHANTALA.

Operational Summary No. 206 for 24 hours ending 1500 4/1. 0605 to 0745 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron made armed photographs recco Assab area. Medium level attack on Bizellis transport yard P.P.4.H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. MAP A3. All bombs in target area. No shipping changes since 27/12. 1 Blenheim squadron returned from convoy duties based Kamaran and 1 proceeded Kamaran for convoy duties. 1 Blenheim 203 squadron despatched as fighter escort for CHANTALA on receiving her report of attack from 0640 to 0705 in position 175 degs. Perim 150 miles by 1 E/A which dropped 5 bombs all misses, and her subsequent report of second attack at 0821.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1858/4).

FLAMINGO.

Expected time of arrival with EGRA TAKLIWA VARSOVA at 0700/Z/5. LEANDER's Walrus may arrive early A.M./5.
(FLAMINGO 2301/4 to N.O.I.C. Port Sudan).

China.

Aberdeen
Establishment.

Your 1607/20/12. Present condition of Aberdeen establishments. Request whether controlled mining base is eventually to be constructed.
(Cdre. Hong Kong to Adty. 0152Z/4).

Indo-
China
Trade
Agreement.

Your 2320Z/2. Prohibition of British and Allied shipping visiting Indo China ports is raised from 10/1. (Reference to terms of agreement) (C.in C. China 0947Z/4 to Adty, also from Governor, Straits Settlements for F.O. and Colonial Office). Orriginal in Lion copy only. (Operations Volume).

MOST SECRET.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

FALCON
PETEREL.

My 0251Z/14/10 and proceeding messages. While reasons of policy for retaining FALCON at Chungking and PETEREL at Shanghai remain very much what they were, with lapse of time practical disadvantages tend to increase inview of enforced idleness of officers and men. Approval is therefore requested to withdraw personnel from FALCON and reduce PETEREL to complement sufficient for ships' upkeep and to act as W/T link. British Ambassador Tokyo British Ambassador Chungking and (British?) Embassy Shanghai concur.
(C.in C. China, 0369/4 to Adty).

Raider
Intelligence.

Your 1415/3 (Passing of certain intelligence to C.in C. Dutch East Indies).
(C.in C. China, 0421/4 to Adty).

Two Norwegian seamen Ex OLE JACOB have affirmed to Norwegian charge D/Affairs in Tokyo that they saw German Commander of prize crew in Kobe 30th. December. No other information known regarding wherabouts of ship.
(Capt: O.S. Singapore 0531/4 to Adty).

Note. Ship ELSA shown in the original has now been deleted.

Indo-
China
Trade.

My 0823Z/26. Visits of French ships to Hong Kong and Singapore and sailings to French Indo-China ports may be resumed 10/1 on conditions laid down.
(C.in C. China, 0945Z/4 to Cdre. Hong Kong etc.).

America and West Indies.

NEWPORT.

Request confirmation of safe arrival NEWPORT.
(F.O.3.B.S. 0904/4 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Dutch Ships, Rabaul.	Your 1040/31. Permission for Dutch Naval tanker and Dutch warship to (group missing) Rabaul middle of January is granted. Length of proposed stay would appear to be of some relevance in connection with establishment of Naval Bases mentioned in Mandate, but it is assumed request is for permission for a visit in strict sense. (A.C.N.B., 0654/4, to Admty.)
Mine.	Mine exploded in sweep position 043° 27' S. 147° 57' East Approaches to Hobart at 0331Z/4. (A.C.N.B., 1030/4).
BATHURST Minesweepers.	A.M. 0121/15/12/40 and your 0515/16/12/40. Intend that BATHURST Class Minesweepers to proceed to Mediterranean should form 21st Minesweeping Flotilla and that vessels remaining on Australian Station should form 22nd Minesweeping Flotilla. Request names of vessels may be signalled accordingly. (D.M.S. 1704/4 to A.C.N.B.).
MANOORA. TRIENZA.	MANOORA escorting steamship TRIENZA arrived Ocean Is. 1800Z/3. (A.C.N.B. 2035Z/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA
CAMPANA
AURIGNY
KATIOLA
FORMOSE

Five French ships will soon leave Buenos Aires for Marseilles with food cargoes for unoccupied France, a spokesman of the Navigation France shipping company stated in Buenos Aires yesterday.
They are the MENDOZA, CAMPANA, AURIGNY, KATIOLA and FORMOSE. The MENDOZA, according to the spokesman, is expected to sail first.
The Free French Committee in the Argentine declared that the ships would probably be captured in mid-Atlantic, and that their sailing was a manoeuvre prepared by the Axis powers for the purpose of increasing tension between London and Vichy. -
(British United Press, Buenos Aires, 4/12).
Note. The FORMOSE played a part in the battle of the River Plate, in which the German pocket battleship ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE was forced to take refuge in Montevideo before scuttling herself in December 1939. The Nazi warship was pursuing the FORMOSE when she was engaged by the British cruisers EXETER, AJAX and ACHILLES.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BRITISH ZEAL
(torpedoed 31/12)

My 1901/1. Tug HUDSON reports BRITISH ZEAL 0940/4 position 013° 51' N. 018° 07' W. and is proceeding in company with ship to Freetown speed 4.5 knots. (C.in C. S.A., 1719/4 to ISIS).

EVERLEIGH
(attacked 25/12)

Finnish S.S. VELI RAGNAR arriving here yesterday Friday reports that December 25th she intercepted signals from British Steamship EVERLEIGH that she was being chased and fired by submarine when in position 59° 28' (? North) 21° W. signal (?was) repeated several times but then ceased. Finn was then about 40 miles north of EVERLEIGH and proceeded to north of Faeroe Islands but saw no enemy vessel. (Vice-Consul, Petsamo, 1903/4 to Admty.)

NALGORA

Encountered UMGENI who has picked up 34 survivors from NALGORA in position 021° 35' North 020° 59' West and is taking them to (? Clyde). Remaining 71 of crew may be in two boats steering East. NALGORA was shelled by two s/m's and last seen burning. Am proceeding Bathurst looking for boats. Expect to arrive 1300 N/6.
(VELOX, 1930/4 to C.in C. S.A.).

Submarines Reported.

Cape Verde.

Movements of submarines in Cape Verde Area (C.in C. S.A., 1643N/4) See South Atlantic.

0012.

Following has been read. S/M Raider. SSSS de TENA CITY, sighted submarine 055.06 north 19 west.
(Lyness W/T, 0012/4).

2357/3.

At 2257 G.M.T./3 Submarine sighted in position 026° 28' North 022° 22' West.
(S.S. JOHN HOLT 0252/4 to any British Warship).

Cancel my 2101/3 (aircraft being sent to attack U-Boats) (V.A.S. 1037/4 to TIGRIS, TALISMAN).

0950.

Damaged Italian U/Boat was probably within a radius of 30 miles of 45° North 4° West at 0950 heading for Bordeaux.
(C.in C. W.A., 1108/4 to KELVIN, KIPLING.)

My 1136 (Report of tanker damaging Italian submarine) tanker was in position 047° 42' North 003° 50' West at 1553.
(V.A.S., 1659/4, to TIGRIS)
See also HOME COMMANDS, Operations.

/ By D/F at .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

By D/F at 1955 U-Boat within 20 miles of 045 degs. 30' North 002 degs. 20' West. (V.A.S., 2031/4, to TALISMAN).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian:
1 to eastward of Azores.
1 in 45° 29' N. 8° 33' W. at 1745/3, proceeding to Gironde at 11 - 12 knots unable to dive.
1 within 60 miles radius of 54° 30' N. 14° 30' W.
1 within 30 miles radius of 55° N. 19°W.
1 within 60 miles radius of 56° N. 21° 30' W.
1 in about 59° N. 23° W. at 1243/3 is due to leave patrol for Gironde.

German:
1 in 26° 28' N. 22° 22' W. at 2357/3 northbound at 10 - 11 knots.
1 about 44° 30' N. 10° W. at 0015/4, probably bound for Freetown area.
1 about 47° N. 11° W. at 0118/4 probably outward bound.
1 within 60 miles radius of 57° 30' N. 19° 30' W.
1 within 40 miles radius of 59° 30' N. 20° W.
1 within 60 miles radius of 60° N. 20° W.
Possibly 1 about 60° N. 15° W. eastbound. (D.D.I.C. 1331/4).

4

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.1.1941
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Rosyth, Escort Force

C. in C., Rosyth has asked that the Rosyth Escort Force may be augmented at an early date. The strength of the Force is at present below what is necessary to maintain the East Coast convoys. Nine ships are out of action, five of them through enemy activity.

Operations in Bay of Biscay

KELVIN and KIPLING returned to Plymouth this morning without having sighted the tanker and Italian submarine for which they have been searching.

British Air Activity

Attacks on Brest

Last night, in very bad weather conditions 40 aircraft of Bomber Command bombed the dock area at Brest. No direct hit on the cruiser was reported. Today, 5 Blenheims of Coastal Command succeeded in dropping bombs in the target area and estimate that some direct hits were obtained on the cruiser in dry dock and on a merchant vessel and a barge.

Bomber Command aircraft last night also attacked targets at Hamburg, Rotterdam and Bremen.

Operations today were restricted by bad weather, and only one attack was made, on an oil target at Flushing.

A new A/S patrol was flown today by Coastal Command, about 150 miles west of of Ireland. Weather conditions curtailed the routine patrols and reconnaissances in the southern North Sea and English Channel.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.1.1941
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy activity last night was on a larger scale than of late and was mainly directed to the Bristol-Avonmouth area.

The following attacks were made on shipping; no damage was caused in any of the attacks:- TEMPLE MOAT in Convoy 268, in N.W. Approaches at 1056. Convoy F.N.75 off Cromer at 1130. Convoy C.E. 21 in Thames Estuary at 1600. Convoy F.N. 76 off Harwich at 1710.

Mining

Beaufort aircraft last night laid mines successfully off the Ems and Jade and at Dieppe.

Operations S.N. 6 and S.N. 65.

R.A.M.L. at 1837 reported these operations completed. The 1st M.L.S. arrived at Port Z.A. at 1701. HOOD and 4 destroyers arrived at Scapa at 0930 from covering the operations.

Operation B.S. 48

Operation B.S. 48 was postponed 24 hours to enable INTREPID to act as escort.

Operation Z.M.E. 11

ADVENTURE laid mines in St. George's Channel before midnight 5/6.

Possible enemy aircraft mining took place last night off the East and North East coasts and in the Humber.

Casualties

Two ships were damaged by mines today in the Thames Estuary viz. LOWESTOFT escorting Convoy F.N. 78, who was towed to Sheerness ~~and SS XXXXXXX (3237 tons) in Convoy E.C. 78, but was able to proceed under her own steam.~~

/Moray Firth.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.1.1941
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Moray Firth

The Admiralty have replied to the request of C. in C. Rosyth (see 31/12/40) for strengthening the Moray Firth minefield, that there is little evidence to prove that U-Boats have entered the Firth lately. The minefield will, however, be strengthened when more urgent mine-laying requirements have been met.

North Atlantic

Examination and search of vessels of American Export Line recently arriving at Bermuda from Lisbon has revealed a most unsatisfactory state of affairs at the latter port.

South Atlantic

SS SHAKESPEAR (5029tons) ex Convoy O.B. 262 was attacked by a submarine this morning about 250 miles N.E. of Cape Verde Is.

Force K. (FORMIDABLE, NORFOLK, DORSETSHIRE) FURIOUS (for operation "Monsoon") and DUNEDIN with W.S. 5 A arrived at Freetown this morning.

DEVONSHIRE was today ordered to cover the area to north and north-east of the position of the enemy unit reported by D/F yesterday, the position of which is now given as 25° 50' S., 6° 30' to 7° 30' W

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Bardia was captured by assault today. A large number of prisoners were captured.

Air Operations

Last night and today, R.A.F. carried out - successful attacks on Tobruk. Tripoli and ships in port were attacked this afternoon; many sticks of bombs dropped among destroyers and merchant ships; and the power station, a wharf and buildings were hit and large fires caused.

Hurricanes today patrolled bewteen Tobruk and Bardia.

Australian Gladiators patrolling over Gambut area intercepted 12 S 79's about to attack one of H.M.Ships and compelled them to jettison their bombs.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Coastal Convoys. The last ships of convoy C.E.21 passed Dover at 0032/5. Suggest that in similar weather conditions in future the convoys should be sailed from St. Helens sufficiently early to ensure that all stragglers pass Dover in darkness. (V.A. Dover 1201/5 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Meeting with Prime Minister. Your 1728/1. Following 2 items proposed for Agenda. (C.in C. H.F. 1746/5 to Adty.)

Rosyth Escort Force. Request Force may be augmented at an early date, preferably with HUNT-class Destroyers. Reasons. (C.in C. Rosyth 1855/5 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/5. (D.C. 1155/5) At 2330/5. (D.C. 2330/5)

Oban. A/A Defence of Convoy Anchorage. Adty. 1250/4. In Firth of Lorn, main anchorage is above Black Isle but at present there are also 7 ships at anchor in overflow anchorage below Black Isle. These latter ships are immobilized by defects. One cruiser cannot effectively cover both anchorages. Bofors guns will be for defence of main anchorage only. (C.S.15 1603/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

Movements.

KELVIN, KIPLING. Arrived Plymouth 1025/5. (C.in C. W.A. 0008/6).

More Command. Ships out of Action. (C.in C. More 0710/5 to Adty.)

CRITRAL. Sailed 0830 for Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 0915Z/5).

ARGUS
KENYA
BERWICK

Adty. 1938/1. C.S.10 in KENYA, BERWICK, ARGUS sail 1530/5 routed through (a) 036° 00' N. 010° 00' W. (b) 041° 00' N. 020° 00' W. (c) 054° 15' N. 023° 45' W. thence to rendezvous Z. Speed of advance 15 knots. BERWICK will part company in position (b).
BERWICK's speed of advance after parting company 20 knots with 23 knots available in later stage of voyage. Request onward routeing instructions be signalled to C.S.10 and BERWICK.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1058/5 to Adty.)

Route for BERWICK from (c) to Nab.
(C.in C. W.A. 2234/5 to C.S.10, BERWICK).

/ HOOD, ECHO, ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

HOOD, ECHO, ELECTRA, SIKH, ESKIMO.	Arrived Scapa 0930. (A.C.O.S. 1058/5).
Northern Patrol.	Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1445/5).
EDINBURGH.	Arrived Scapa 1801/5 (A.C.O.S. 1804/5).
BEAGLE.	Sailed from Port ZA. 1945. (TRELAWNEY 1947/5).
CALIFORNIA.	Operating near 41° N. 23° W. (D.O.D.F. 2246/5 to TRIDENT)
SALOPIAN.	Operating near 39° N. 22° W. (D.O.D.F. 2246/5 to TRIDENT).

Operations.

MINNIE DE LARRINAGA.	My 1630/2 and your 0441/4. Sailed 1045. (F.O.I.C. London 1100/5 to V.A. Dover). My 1100/5. Ship completed 4 runs over D/G range today. Result not safe under 90 feet. Sailing cancelled. Returning Tilbury to deperm. Period of delay uncertain. (F.O.I.C. London 1520/5 to C.in C. Nore). Towing to Dover postponed till next favourable date of moon and tide, which V.A. Dover is requested to signal. (C.in C. Nore 1704/5 to F.O.I.C. London).
Enemy Tanker.	Following is preliminary Report of Operations in Bay of Biscay on 3 and 4/1. (C.in C. W.A. 2222/5 and 1302/5 to Adty.)
Proposed Operation.	Operation ordered in my Memo. 332. A/41/J of 2/1 will begin tonight. (C.in C. Nore 1111/5 to Cdre. Sheerness).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

TIGRIS. To leave Patrol after dark/8 and meet CUTTY SARK at 0900/10 in 250° Trevose Head 7 miles. Route thence. (S.2. 1021/5 to TIGRIS).

SEVERN. To leave Clyde 9/1 escorted by PHILANTE for 56° 30' N. 10° W. whence PHILANTE returns to Clyde. Route thence for SEVERN to Patrol and to Halifax. (C.in C. W.A. 1118/5 to V.A.S.).
To carry out an A/S Patrol during passage in area between 55° and 59° N. and between 20° and 24° W., leaving Patrol after dark/15 and proceeding on surface at C.O's discretion when West of 25° W. Will enter America and W.I. station at 0001/17, when intend operational control transferred to C.in C. A. and W.I. (V.A.S. 2154/8 to S.3.)

Greenock Area. Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1308/5)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/6. (V.A.S. 1701/5).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Ordered today: S.A. 1A., S.A.2., S.A.3., STAB. AM., and 1 POP PM. Also SYDERO AM. by Beaufort A/C as Training Flight as follows. (C.in C. Rosyth 0830/5)
Patrol S.A.3 cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 1258/5).

Balloons and Kites. Operational Heights. My 1106/19. From 8/1 the maximum operational height to which Balloons will be flown will be increased to 6000 feet. But Kites will be flown up to 10,000 feet within Portsmouth and Plymouth barrages. (Air Ministry F.O.I. 1210/5).

HIPPER Cruiser and Destroyer at Brest believed damaged. C.in C. Coastal Command reports one aircraft believed to have obtained direct hits on Hipper with S.A.P. bombs. In addition 3 hits reported to have been obtained on a destroyer in Rade Abri. Photographic R/C is endeavouring to confirm damage.
(D.N.I. 1219/5 to C.in C. H.F.).

Brest. Nine A/C of 53 and 59 Sqdns. will attack tonight Cruiser in dry-dock at Brest with 250-lb. S.A.P. Bombs. (H.Q.C.C. 1315/5 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

TEMPLE MOAT. (British, 4427 tons) Attacked by A/C in 55° 29' N. 18° 55' W. (Valentia Radio 1056/5).

C.E. 21 Convoy. A/C bombing Convoy TOTEM in 51° 33' N. 1° 12' E. (From (?) 1600/5).

F.N. 76 Convoy. One A/C bombing Convoy AGENT in 51° 52' N. 1° 35' E. (EGRET 1710/5)
2 Bombs. No hits (EGRET 1718/5)

Mining.

E.S. 48. A/S Escort will be provided during daylight/7, and Fighter Escort from 1030/7 till return to 20.D. Buoy. (C.in C. Rosyth 0106/5 to S.O. M/L. (Immingham).
D.20's 1952/5. Intend to postpone Operation 24 hours so that INTREPID may be available as Escort. (S.O. M/L. Immingham 1953/5)
Operation postponed 24 hours. Times in my 1532/4 to be altered accordingly. (S.O. M/L Immingham 1954/5 to Adty.)

Moray Firth. Your 1830/31. There is little evidence to prove that U-Boats have been recently active in the Moray Firth. Strengthening of the minefield is, however, due to be undertaken when more urgent minelaying requirements have been met. (D.A/S. W. 1318/5 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Kinnaird Head to Aberdeen. My 1230/4. 19th Group sailed 0715 to attempt Sweep. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0730/5 to C.in C. Rosyth).
My 1115/4. Sweeping abandoned owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1120/5).

Weather permitting intend sailing 19th Group to R/V 119° 6 miles Cruden Scaurs at 0800 tomorrow and search East Side of War Channel ahead of W.M.52 to 000° 14 miles Kinnaird Head. Expected time of arrival 1500/6.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1230/5 to C.in C. Rosyth).

My 1205/5. Operation of 12th M/S Group cancelled owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1701/5).

/ Z.M.E. 11. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Z.M.E.11.

Intend leave Milford Haven 1830/5 to lay at 2115, returning on completion about 2300 (ADVENTURE 0925/5 to Adty.) Operation completed (ADVENTURE 2312/5).

Walton-on-Naze.

D.O. Walton reports 4 distant Explosions heard at 1006 bearing East. Nothing seen. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1010/5 to C.in C. Nore).

Pentland Firth.

Closed owing to suspected minelaying (A.C.O.S. 1051/5) Pentland Firth now open. (A.C.O.S. 1445/5).

Liverpool.

Fishing Trawlers showing lights make a practice of fishing at night in the vicinity of seaward ends of and on Swept Channels QZ3 129 and 130. It is considered most undesirable in view of mine-laying air raids. Repeated warnings fail to take effect. Propose declaring a prohibited area embracing Swept Channels as follows. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1108/5 0945/6 to Adty., Adty. 0845/6).

LOWESTOFT.

(Sloop) Struck Mine at 1315/5 in Barrow Deep 240° 3 cables from B.4 Buoy. (C.in C. Nore 1113/6 to Adty.)
2 Tugs from Southend and 2 from Sheerness proceeding to LOWESTOFT. (C.in C. Nore 1427/5 to WOOLSTON).
Arrived in tow 1625/5 at Sheerness for Chatham. (C.in C. Nore 1706/5 to Adty.)

Rosyth.

My 2255/4. South side of QZ3 175 between No. 1. Reflector Buoy and Inchkeith East Gate is now open (C.in C. Rosyth 1139/5)
Cancel my 2255/4. Both sides of QZ3 175 between No. 1 Reflector buoy and East Gate Inchkeith are now open. (C.in C. Rosyth 1407/5).

S.N.6. and S.N.65.

Arrived Port ZA. 1700/5 R.A.M.L. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, BEAGLE. (TRELAWNEY 1701/5 to Adty.)
S.N.6 and S.N.65 completed. (R.A.M.L. 1837/5).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

P.A.C. Rockets.

Many now fitted to both Auxiliary Vessels and Merchant Ships. So far very few reports of use received. Such reports have been favourable but the present model has limited capabilities and development of a better model is under active research. It is thought that there is some prejudice against device and that full use is not being made of it. It is to be impressed on all ships concerned that use of device against deliberate low level bombing attack is a most valuable adjunct to defence and has been proved to have a deterrent effect even when a hit is not secured.
It is most important that any report of its use or any failure of material should reach the Admiralty promptly.
(D.T.S.D. 1204/5. A Message 67Z.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.1. 1941.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

PRIMULA. (Corvette) Has been in collision. Am standing by her at 54.F. Buoy. (SNAPDRAGON 0612/5 to LOWESTOFT) Report if help is required. (LOWESTOFT 0744/5 to SNAPDRAGON).

BARRHEAD (Boom Defence Vessel) My 1834/29. High and dry at low water. Tug unable get within 1½ miles. Salvage impossible. Crew brought to Reykjavik overland. Skipper and 2 hands in Tug TANGA awaiting return to Reykjavik (F.O. Iceland 1820/5).

ALIOTH. (Dutch, 5483 Tons) Tug ST. MELLONS sailed at 1737 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1923/5 to Adty) Arrived Tugs KENIA and ST. MELLONS towing ALIOTH at 1815 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1821/6).

CHESAPEAKE. Returning Campbeltown. CHESAPEAKE proceeding on voyage (TENACITY 1735/5 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

EMERALD. Damaged while leaving Dockyard today. Will necessitate docking. Estimated time for repairs 4 to 7 days. (C. in C. W.A. 1949/5).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

W.N. 64 (0).	List (N.C.S.O. Oban 0926/5).
O.B. 270.	List (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 0940/5) Sailed 1900/5, 7 ships only. Amended R.V. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 2052/5, 2054/5).
E.N. 52.	List (N.C.S.O. Methil 1140/5).
H.X. 99.	Meet. 22 ships unescorted 1000/7 110°, 60.20.N, 16.00 W., 110°., 8 knots. Route (C. in C. W.A. 1233/5 to LA MALOUINE, SHIKARI, SARDONYX, ANEMONE).
East Coast	Amending N.C.S.O. 138 and N.C.S.I. 139 for stragglers and independently routed ships bound for East Coast ports (D.T.D. 1342/5 to A.I.G. 47).
H.X. 98.	Cancel my 1219/25/12. Date and route. REVENGE to U.K. (D.T.D, 1345/5).
O.B. 271.	1000/9. Route (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1415/5 to Admty etc).
E.N. 50.	Arrived less ST. LINDSAY (N.C.S.O. Oban 1431/5).
F.S. 79.	My 2358/4. Read 11 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 1503/5).
F.N. 77.	My 2153/3. Amend escort to read WOOLSTON and VESPER. (C. in C. Rosyth 1511/5).
F.S. 78.	Arrived all ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 1644/5).
O.B.O. 270.	0600/6. Escort CAMPANULA. 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1625/5).
W.N. 65 (0)	1400/6. 9 ships. Unescorted through Sound of Mull to anchor Bloody Bay until one Clyde escort arrives to escort to R.V. with "Muster" in 56.42 N., 6.20.W at 0230/7. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1716/5).
O.G.M. 49.	1800/6. H.M.T. DERBY COUNTY. 3. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1720/5).

/C.E.21.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

C.E. 21. — Southend arrival 5/1 all ships except CORINIA reported arrived at Dover. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1910/5).

O.B.C. 270. — Intend sailing at 0430/6. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2133/5).

W.N. 65. — 2047/5. H.M.T. STELLA CAPELLA. 10 ships. Sailing zero advanced one hour to avoid meeting O.B.C. and O.B.L. convoys in low visibility. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 2221/5).

O.G. 48. — Expected to pass 43° N., 19½° on 7/1 (D.O.D. (F) to TRIDENT, 2246/5).

H.X. 101. — AUSONIA left Halifax 5/1 as ocean escort for H.X. 101 (S.O.(I) Halifax 1630/5).

S.C. 17. — Proceeding with ERICA to comply with your 1150/4. Your 0602/3 not received. Lost touch with remainder of escort 55° 30', 16° 30'. (WOLVERINE 0231/5 to C. in C. W.A.).

Not met, searching near (?54). 38 17. 12, no other escort in company. Continuing search 1530 main line of advance 055° (? seven) knots 00 26 50 49 20 53 WOLVERINE with ARBUTUS not met 54 46 N. 16 52 W. at 1149. One enemy aircraft reported by WOLVERINE 1149. (VETERAN, 1400/5).

C.E. 21 — C.E. 21 passing Dover. (V.A. Dover 0735/5).

Southen 5/1 arrival from Portsmouth H.M. drifter GOLDEN NEWS. H.M.T.'s COVENTRY CITY and PHILOMENA with C.E. 21. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1921/5).

E.N. 51 — E.N. 51 passing Buchan Ness speed of advance 7 knots. (RUMBA 0911/5 to A.C.O.S.).

/W.N. 66.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.1.1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

W.N. 66. For W.N. 66, H.M.Tug BUCCANEER 840 tons displacement 12 knots 48 feet, one 3 inch 2 Lewis, Methil for Sheerness.
(N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1133/5 to C. in C. W.A.).

E.N. 52. My 1653/4 Amend Paragraph (D) to read Buchan Ness 1200/6 Duncansby Head 0615/7. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1203/5).

O.B. 270. Sailed GARDENIA escort for O.B.O. 270 WILD SWAN to Londonderry to refuel and join O.B. 270.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1234/5)
(See also U-Boat Campaign S/Ms reported).

FLEUR DE LYS sailed escorting O.B.270.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1755/5).

After compass adjustment proceed to overtake OB 270 routed through 055° 50'N, 008° 00'W, 055° 50'N, 012° 00'W, 054° 15'N, 014° 25'W, speed of advance 8 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2117/5 to PERIWINKLE).

F.S. 83. Intend sailing HUSSAR with F.S. 83 thence to Harwich.
(F.O. Humber 1432/5).

F.N. 77. VESPER is to replace LOWESTOFT as escort of F.N. 77 tomorrow. She is to leave Sheerness as ordered by WOOLSTON, WOOLSTON will be S.O. of escort. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to return VESPER to Sheerness with first available F.S. convoy after arrival of F.N.77.
(C. in C. Nore 1502/5 to D. 21).

O.G. 49. Intend to sail HEATHER for Oban and for O.G. 49 p.m. Monday 6/1.
(Capt D. Greenock 1645/5).

S.L.S. 59. Your 1630 (no trace in W.R.) continue to act as escort to S.L.S. 59 approximate positiom 2000/5 may be 055° 35'N. 007° 00'W.
(C. in C. W.A. 1748/5 to HEARTSEASE).
(See also U-BOAT CAMPAIGN, S/M's reported)

My 1917/5. Unable to contact LADY LILIAN Regret there will be no escort to Liverpool. (AMBUSCADE 2145/5 to C. in C. W.A.).

/Independent.....

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

Independent Sailings.

N.C.S.O. Mersey 1606/4. (Sailing of fast independently routed ships) Concur generally but after consultation with A.O.C. 15 Group recommend this line should be 150 miles from Malin Head.
(C. in C. W.A. 1934/5 to Admty).

Troop Convoys.

W.S.5 B.

Your 1052/4 not to Admiralty. Do these orders cancel those contained in Admiralty 2251/2? ARAWA's route not yet received.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1037/5 to C. in C.W.A)

Your 1037/5. ARAWA and LINCOLN are to proceed to Clyde in time to sail with Clyde Portion of W.S. 5B. p.m./7.
(C. in C. W.A. 1512/5 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).

A/S escort for W.S. 5 B:-
(A) Bristol Channel portion VANSITTART.
(B) Liverpool portion HIGHLANDER HARVESTER WITHERINGTON.
(C) Clyde portion. OTTAWA, LEOPARD, CHURCHILL, LINCOLN, WATCHMAN, FEARLESS, BEAGLE, BRILLIANT.
(ii) After making rendesvous VANSITTART is to fuel LOUGH FOYLE and rejoin convoy.
(iii) FORESIGHT is to leave Liverpool 8/1 to join convoy.
(iv) Senior Officer HIGHLANDER.
(C. in C. W.A. 1320/5).

A.T. 2341 of 31/12 para 2 for "1200/11/1/41" read "Rendezvous X". 2. A.T. 1830/3 for 1200/11/1/41" read "Rendezvous X". 3. A.T. 1824/4 for "Rendezvous Y" read "Rendezvous X". 4. Rendezvous X is established in position 48° 10'N. 27° 45'W. vide A.T. 2340/31/12.
(D.O.D. (F) 1525/5).

Intend sailing Liverpool sections W.S. 5B escorted by AUSTRALIA, HIGHLANDER HARVESTER and WITHERINGTON 1700/7 speed 13½ knots to rendezvous Bristol Channel and Clyde sections at 0900/8 in position 270° Oversay 6 Miles. Thence in accordance with Admiralty's 2340/31. FORESIGHT will be sailed A.M./8 further signal will be made. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1820/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Scuttling Signal.

The following signal was in force in French Convoy recently brought into Gibraltar. It is hoisted by (? escort ship) and is in International Code. It is not known whether signal is changed periodically. B (for butter) Scuttle immediately.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1002/5 to Adty).

Repatriation of French.

Your 1234/4. (Portuguese ship to take French passengers and ratings from Gibraltar to Oran). This can probably be arranged.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1253/5 to Adty).

RHONE. (torpedoed) Italian Submarine report.

Have been informed (D.2) that a survivor of torpedoed tanker RHONE has stated in Casablanca that attacking submarine was recognised as Italian.

2. General Weygand in a recent talk to Officers is reported to have said regarding British share in French collapse that "it must be recognised that there were faults on both sides and I should like to make it clear that I have the highest regard for British efficiency".
(Wagon Tangier, Telegram No ? 1200 T.H.I. 1315/5).

Treatment of Shipping.

War Office request that, if you have not already done so, you will inform C.O.C. West Africa of the policy of H.M.G. in regard to treatment of Vichy French ships and of the instructions issued by you bringing this policy into effect on your station.
(D.O.D.(F) 1615/5 to C.in C. S.A.)

Internees West Africa.

Your C./2100 of 26/12.
Ministry of Shipping will make every effort to evacuate Vichy internees to unoccupied French with least possible delay.
Admiralty considers that in future only small numbers of Vichy merchant seamen will be brought into West African ports, the number in a transit camp never exceeding 100. There is no intention of retaining internees in Sierra Leone.
(W.O. no T.O.O./5 to C.O.C. W. Africa.)

MOST SECRET.

5.1.1941.
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WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Casablanca
RHONE.

Following received from State Department. From Casablanca. My 1549/27. MARRAKESH also carried 100 tons munitions including 16-inch and 6-inch naval shells. Generally thought in Casablanca that Air Force and munitions were intended for protection of Dakar; also suggested Air Forces were primarily to reinforce General Falvey in Dahomey and Lake Chad area where Falvey has some 20,000 men organized in 5 light columns. Also reported Tanker RHONE was still afloat and hoped to be able extract portion of torpedo which struck her in order to identify nationality of Submarine. (N.A.Washington 1748/3 to Adty).

North Atlantic.

TIERCEL
SAYONARA.

TIERCEL has insufficient endurance and seakeeping qualities to enable her to proceed to Gibraltar under present conditions. Neither SAYONARA nor any other of the A.B.V. (Yachts) should be sent to U.K. for fitting A/S. (D.O.D.(H) 1218/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

EMPIRE
TROOPER,
Corvettes.

Gibraltar arrivals 0900/5 CAMITO, 1230 CYCLAMEN, CLEMATIS, GERANIUM and JONQUIL escorting British s.s. EMPIRE TROOPER. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1232/5 to Adty).

TRIDENT
OLYMPUS.

Position of Submarines at 0800/6 and movements for following 24 hours. (A) TRIDENT on patrol off Ponta Delgada leaves for U.K. p.m. routed West of St.Miguel to 038° 10'N., 022° 40'W. (b) OLYMPUS 037° 10'N., 022° 10'W. course 285°, 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1324/5 to N.A.Station).

KENYA
ARGUS
BERWICK.

Gibraltar departures 1545/5 F.O.C. 10th C.S. in KENYA, ARGUS, BERWICK in accordance with F.O.C.N.A's 1058/5 not to C.in C. Mediterranean S.O.Force H, escorted by

/FORESTER

MOST SECRET.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

KENYA
ARGUS
BERWICK.
(Contd.)

FORESTER, FOXHOUND, FURY who part company to arrive Gibraltar 1900/6 and WISHART who parts company 041 00' North. Q.Z.F. 27 H6 S198 X261 Y178.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1614/5 to Adty etc.

DERBYSHIRE
HASTY.

Gibraltar 1730/5 DERBYSHIRE departure for Patrol Area E two F two, escorted by HASTY to Cape Spartel. Admiralty Message QZF 27 H Six 198 X 261 Y 178.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1752/5 to Adty, F.O.C.N.P.)

NORTHERN
PRINCE.

My 1830/3. British ship NORTHERN PRINCE refloated yesterday 4/1. Intend docking tomorrow 6/1.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1932/5.)

Personnel
from
NORTHERN
PRINCE.

Your 0945/4. Personnel in NORTHERN PRINCE comprise 24 Naval Officers, 28 Army Officers 261 other ranks, one R.A.F. Officer 66 other ranks.
These are being distributed approximately as follows 70 to each of BONAVENTURE, CLAN CUMMING and EMPIRE SONG, 90 to each of CLAN MACDONALD and ESSEX. Personnel referred to in Adty. 1245/2 O, will be embarked in JAGUAR. Personnel referred to in reference Admty. 1550/4 will be embarked in HERO and HASTY, approximately 30 in each.
Draft of two Naval Officers and 17 ratings plus one R.A.F. Officer and 11 other ranks in HEREWARD. Personnel baggage of personnel of 821 (Group omitted) and one air gunner in BONAVENTURE.
(S.O.Force H, 2104/5 to V.A.Malta.)

South Atlantic.

Independent
Sailings.

My 2331/26 (Routing of independent sailing merchant vessels).
(1) Amend para (2) to read as follows:-
"Are to be routed out of sight of land when proceeding through or near Azores and eastward of a line" etc. (2) Para. (3) insert "Swansea Bay" after "Milford Haven".
(C.in C. S.A. 0009M/5).

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Search for Enemy Unit by DEVONSHIRE.

My 2356/4. (Additional bearings).
(D.D.I.C. 0234/5.)

My 2356/4. (Further bearings)
(D.D.I.C. 0335/5).

My 2356/4. Further bearing Ascension 338/2.
(D.D.I.C. 0913/5).

Enemy Unit.

Your 2327N/4. Consideration of all bearings now received indicates position of enemy surface unit at 2107/4 G.M.T. to be 25° 50'S., 6° 30' to 7° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1203/5 to C.in C. S.A.)

My 1151/1 and my 2327/4. As far as time allows you should cover area to North and North East of position of enemy surface vessel which is now given as 025° 50'S., 006° 30' to 007° 30' W in case vessel moves that way.
You will be required to rendezvous with W.S.5.A. in approximate position 002° 00'N., 010° 30' West a.m./10.
(C.in C. S.A. 1247N/5 to DEVONSHIRE).

W.S.5.A.

Arrival Freetown 5/1 Force K FURIOUS, DUNEDIN with W.S. five A. also ISIS. ENCOUNTER and BRIDGEWATER.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1059N/5)
(Note: Force K:- FORMIDABLE, NORFOLK, DORSETSHIRE).

Add to my 1059N/5. Arrival CALENDULA.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1425N/5).

DRAGON HERMES.

Arrival 5/1 Capetown DRAGON, Simonstown HERMES.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1130Z/5).

MOST SECRET.

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WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

After leaving Rio de Janeiro 8/1 patrol K.33 till a.m./10 then proceed throughL 31 to Falkland Islands. Fuel and provision at Manzanillo and give assistance with minesweeping skids. After four days at Port Stanley proceed to Deception Island - correspondence regarding Deception Island, your mail and one officer and one rating for you are in BALTAVIA due Port Stanley 15/1. After (corrupt Group) oil tanks return to Port Stanley for 48 hours and top up fuel subsequently proceeding to Patrol L 32. (R.A.S.A.D. 1203Z/5 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

ASTURIAS.

ASTURIAS fuels at Montevideo 7/1 subsequently proceeding K 33. After fuelling CUMBERLAND and NEWCASTLE in company patrol L 31, L 32 also watching for French ships leaving Buenos Aires. Oiler BROOMDALE transfers stocks of fuel to oiler ARNDALE in Plate about 8/1 then proceed Curacao. BALTAVIA visits Buenos Aires after storing provisions then returns to Falkland Is. QUEEN OF BERMUDA as inmy 1903/5, ?1203Z/5. (R.A.S.A.D. 1204Z/5 to C.in C. S.A.)

American Neutral Zone.

Your 1425/4. You are to assume preamble and para.(2) two (a) of Admty's 0042/3 does not cancel limitations laid down in Adty. 2315/15/12 1940. (Re stopping of neutral ships in American neutral zone). (C.in C. S.A. 1337/5 to R.A.S.A.B.)

FORMIDABLE.

FORMIDABLE is carrying 397 cases of important F.A.A. stores and £67,000 in silver and notes all for Trinidad. Request you will arrange for disembarkation at Freetown and onward transmission to Trinidad as opportunity occurs. (D.O.D.(F) 1614/5 to C.in C. S.A.)

SCHIELAND.

Overdue shipping. My 1732/3 delete Dutch ship SCHIELAND. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1632/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 5.1.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Operation "Monsoon".

FURIOUS and DELHI are to leave Freetown first ship past boom at 0830/6 and proceed Takoradi escorted by ISIS and ENCOUNTER to carry out operation "MONSOON" returning to Freetown on completion. NEPTUNE will join FURIOUS off Takoradi a.m./8 and is to act as additional escort during operation and return passage. Destroyers are to be fuelled from NEPTUNE if necessary. (C.in C. S.A. 1723N/5 to FURIOUS, DELHI).

Dispositions.

Freetown. ALBATROSS, CORFU, VINDICTIVE, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, DORSETSHIRE, NORFOLK, DELHI, DUNEDIN, BRIDGEWATER, MILFORD, ISIS, ENCOUNTER, ASPHODEL, CALENDULA.

Freetown-United Kingdom. ESPERANCE BAY escorting S.L.60, BULOLO escorting S.L.61,

United Kongdom-Freetown. JONQUIL, GERANIUM, CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN escorting EMPIRE TROOPER towards Gibraltar.

Gibraltar-Freetown. VELOX and VIDETTE arrive 8/1.

Freetown area. HAWKINS on patrol arrives 7/1. NEPTUNE on patrol, CANTON on patrol sailed p.m./4. H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE arrives 8/1.

Simonstown-Freetown. DEVONSHIRE fuels St. Helena 6/1 then meets W.S.5.A. and escort to Durban.

Capetown. DRAGON, CARNARVON CASTLE being repaired.

Simonstown. CORNWALL refitting, HERMES.

Durban. Fr. SAVORGNAN-de-BRAZZA refitting. KANIMBLA.

Plate-Simonstown. ENTERPRISE arrives about 12/1.

Plate area. CUMBERLAND, NEWCASTLE, ASTURIAS.

Rio de Janeiro. QUEEN OF BERMUDA leaves K 33 for Plate 7/1.

United Kingdom ports. ALCANTARA, ARAWA, CATHAY, DUNNOTAR CASTLE, MORETON BAY, MOOLTAN. (C.in C. S.A. 1845N/5).

NEWCASTLE.

R/V me at hit (as received) at 0830Z/7. (R.A.S.A.D. 2131/5 to NEWCASTLE).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Escort for Excess.

Your 1420/4. 1 Destroyer will join you with GLOUCESTER and SOUTHAMPTON. This will relieve you of necessity sending more than 1 Destroyer with Force F.
(C.in C. Med. 0853/5 to S.O. Force H.)

Italian Dispositions.

Request deduction as to most probable dispositions of effective Italian battleships 8 inch cruisers and 6 inch cruisers be signalled .m./(?) 5/1 and my subsequent changes during operation EXCESS.
(S.O.Force H, 1025/5 to C.O.I.C. Alexandria).

NALGURA stores.

Ref: Adty. 1658/19/12. 1308/29/12.
Understand from intercepted signal that NALGURA has been lost in which case all stores mentioned in Adty. 1308/29/12 will be required plus table cloth not for Canal Ports. If NALGURA has not been lost request all stores mentioned in Adty. 1308/29/12 may be sent except that B.I Net may be reduced to 3 repeat 3 miles only. Additional Anti-Torpedo bottoms very acceptable. Arrangements for storage ashore will be made.
(C.in C. Med. 1155/5 to Adty).

Turkish Discussions.

Chiefs of Staff to C.in C.'s Middle East No. 44. Line to be taken in discussion with Turks re combined action with respect to Syria. (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1823/5) See Med. Vol.

Your 1025/5. No information available other than already reported by air reconnaissance namely one LITTORIO class and one CAVOUR class battleship three 8-inch cruisers and two 6-inch cruisers at Naples 30/12. Four, 6-inch cruisers Taranto and four cruisers Brindisi 26/12.
(R.A. Alexandria 2247/5 to S.O. Force H).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

13th Corps.

As from 1st January Western Desert Force will be known as 13th Corps.
(C.in C. Med. 1032/5 to Mediterranean Station 336B).

Operation "Excess".

Plan for "EXCESS" will be substantially that adopted for "COLLAR". (ii) If report of weather and Italian dispositions are satisfactory 821 X flight will be flown off before dawn D three and all forces will concentrate a.m./D.3. (iii) If reports are satisfactory flying off will be postponed until before dawn D four and all forces from Gibraltar will concentrate p.m./D two.
(S.O.Force H. 1059/5 to C.in C. Med.)

Air Reports, Libyan ports bombed.

Operational Summary No.209 up to 1200 hrs. 5.1.41 part 1. Egypt. Day 3/1. Landing grounds at Derna, Tmimi, El Gubbi, Gazala, Tobruk West and seaplane base at Bomba each bombed by 2 blenheims between 0830 and 0900. Further attacks made between 1415 and 1445. Night 3/4. 4 Wellingtons bombed Tobruk, hitting stores, huts and military headquarters. 2 large fires were also started. All aircraft returned safely. Day 4/1. 11 Blenheims bombed Tobruk, all bombs falling in centre of town and hitting the barracks. 1 Blenheim bombed Bardia, probably hitting an A.A. battery. Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols throughout the day between Bardia and Tobruk, shooting down 4 CR 42's and probably destroying a fifth.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1236/5).

Tobruk, Bardia, Advance.

Night 4/5. Jan. 4 Wellingtons dropped 10,000 lbs of bombs on Tobruk, starting huge fire with dense black smoke. Explosions continued for 15 minutes after bombing. Further 1000 lbs of bombs burst on barracks. On outward journey, large fires accompanied by explosions observed at Bardia. All aircraft returned safely. G.H.Q. Middle East state that Northern Sector of Bardia has surrecdered but resistance continues on South East Sector. Total of prisoners captured now estimated at 20,000.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1236/5).

MOST SECRET.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

ROVER
Operation
B.S.

Operation B.S. Leave Alexandria at 0900/6 (? suspend tank) Exercises proceed through (route) to patrol within 30 miles Appollonia during daylight 9/1 - 10/1.
(Capt: S.1. 1413/5 to ROVER).

Following is repetition of my 2027/5
Cancel my 1413/5.
(Capt: S.1. 2029/5 to ROVER).

PANDORA.

My 1941/4, cancel para.one. After passing position Z proceed to establish patrol in area between 039 10' N., and 040 00' N., and between 010 30' E and coast of Sardinia. British force will be operating to Southward of you between 8/1 and 10/1. Leave patrol p.m./10 and proceed to Gibraltar as routed in my 1531/29/12.
(Capt: S.1., 1753/5, to PANDORA).

Air
Report,
(Malta)
Catania,
Palermo,
Tripoli,
reconnaissance.

Combined service report Malta up to 1700 hours 5/1. All times G.M.T. 0758 to 1008 Glenn Martin recco Catania including harbour and Noto. Nothing in Catania harbour. 0810 to 1200 Glenn Martin recco Palermo where snowstorm encountered. In harbour 2 6 inch cruisers 10 M/Vs. 3000 to 5000 tons. Aerodrome Bocca Di Falco no aircraft seen. 0815 to 1010 Comiso from 3000 ft., observed. All aerodromes appeared to be waterlogged and in some cases the heavier aircraft seemed bogged. 0810 to 1210 Glenn Martin photo recco. Tripoli harbour from 10,000 feet. 3 seaplanes near hangars. 6 destroyers 1 M/V 10,000 tons 5 M/Vs 8,000 tons 7 M/Vs 6,000 tons and 11 smaller M/Vs.
(H.Q. Med. 1800/5).

MOST SECRET.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

COLOMBO, Mogadiscio. — COLOMBO will reconnoitre Mogadiscio evening 5/1.
(C.in C. E.I. 0456Z/5 to Adty).

Your 1900/2. No confirmation.
(Reports of 45 British Naval Officers and 250 men at Mogadiscio. Requests confirmation of fact they are men from vessel sunk by raider).
(S.O.I. Capetown 1206/5).

STAGPOOL. — Your 1201/2. (re STAGPOOL needed for Lybian operation) STAGPOOL will be sailed to catch B.N.13 from Aden.
(C.in C. E.I.0506Z/5 to C.in C. Med.)

Air Report, Attack on CHANTALA. — Summary No. 207 and Operational Summary. My A.509 4/1 summary No. 206. Both attacks on CHANTALA by single aircraft believed S.81's each dropping 5 bombs in 3 shallow dives from 10,000 feet. No damage or casualties. Heavy A.A. fire from ship apparently prevented low attacks. Following for 24 hours ending on 1500/5/1. 3 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided Fighter escorts for convoy S.W.41A using advanced base Kamaran 1 remaining overnight. No casualties. All times G.M.T.
(A.H.Q. Aden 1757/5).

U/Boat, Report. — By BARALA at 0115Z/5 in 25.00N., 60.10E.
(C.in C. E.I. 0620/5). See U/Boat Campaign.

Kenya. Defences. — Your 0408/20/12. Six Lewis guns are being sent. Mountings are not available but simple ones should be made locally.
(D. of L.D. 2016/5 to C.in C. E.I.)

Relief of DEVONSHIRE, by SHROPSHIRE. — My 0229/31/12 para.5(b). In order to release DEVONSHIRE for passage to U.K. as early as possible could you arrange for SHROPSHIRE to relieve her off the Cape instead of at Durban.
(D.O.D.(F) 2326/5 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.1.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Cocos Island. Your 0319Z/2. (Garrison for Cocos Island) This question is still under consideration between War Office and Colonial Office. A decision is expected shortly. (D. of L.D. 1220/5 to C.in C. China).

S/M Report. German s/m in an unfrequented Japanese port. (N.A. Tokyo, 1203/5) (See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN).

America and West Indies.

CARADOC, patrol. Departure CARADOC in accordance with my 1002/3. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1033/5, to Admty., etc.).

Contraband Control. 443. Examination and search of vessels of American export Line recently arriving at Bermuda from Lisbon has revealed most unsatisfactory state of affairs at latter Port. Contraband Control at Bermuda is taking all possible steps to verify manifests by actual examination of cargo but this is not practicable in most cases. Request steps be taken to rectify state of affairs at Lisbon, where it appears staff is very over-worked. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1052/5, to Admty.)

Bermuda Bases. Your 1302/1. Various measures to meet the points raised have been agreed and proposed to Governors concerned. The Governor of Bermuda has been instructed to communicate them to you for your concurrence. 2. Please report in due course whether more is required from the Naval point of view. (D.D.N.I., 1843/5 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Mining.

Danger area, radius 30', exists off Storm Bay, Tasmania. On 5/1 (? 4/1) a mine was exploded in sweep in 43.27 S., 147.57 E. (centre of danger area). The port of Hobart is closed. (D.S., 488).

Convoy U.S.8.

C.B. 02024 paragraph 82 (1) U.S. 8. (2) 2300Z/4. (3) 0100Z/12 QUEEN MARY due Trincomalee 0030Z/12. (4) 19 knots. (5) (a) 010 deg. 00' South, 090 deg. 00' East. (b) 004 deg. 10' North, 082 deg. 20' East. (c) 006 deg. 00' North 079 deg. 30' East. (6) H.M.A.S. CANBERRA (7) 3 columns, 2, 1, 2, (8) (a) 020 deg. 00' South, 096 deg. 50' East. (b) 004 deg. 20' North, 079 deg. 10' East. (c) QUEEN MARY, AWATEA, AQUITANIA, MAURETANIA, DOMINION MONARCH. (10) Military stores, Military stores, Military stores, Refrigerated and general cargo. (11) 25 starboard 30 port standard 55 port 80 port. (12) Colombo, QUEEN MARY to Trincomalee. (13) (a) Vice Admiral M.L. Goldsmith D.S.O. AQUITANIA Colombo (b) Captain R.B. Irving, R.D. R.N.R., QUEEN MARY Trincomalee. (District N.O., Western Australia, 0201Z/5 to Admty.)

Departure Fremantle H.M.A.S. CANBERRA escorting convoy U.S.8 2300Z/4. (A.C.N.B., 1050Z/5).

MANOORA
TRIENZA

Ocean Island departure 0330Z/5 H.M.A.S. MANOORA and M.V. TRIENZA for Nauru. (S.O.I., Wellington, 1419Z/5, to Admty. etc.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

BURGENLAND,
A. ESSBERGER,
ERMLAND

Report from Kobe states that German Ship BURGENLAND at usual anchorage and that German ship A ESSBERGER had returned to Kobe by 2/1 (? reported) German ship ERMLAND missing from 2/1.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0501Z/5).
Comment by O.I.C.
BURGENLAND being at usual anchorage seems to confirm that KULMERLAND is the ship renamed TOKYO MARU which landed survivors from Raider victims at Emirau Island on 21/12.
ERMLAND was reported to have left Takao, Formosa on 29/10 1940, with two Japanese destroyers and flying the Japanese flag, the crew believed to be Japanese.
No confirmation of this report was received from Kobe, which she was believed to be, and probably she has been at Kobe until missing from there 2/1.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

DERNA.

Arrival January 5th DERNA from Genoa. (Barcelona, 1254/5).

Tanker Reported sunk.

According to a Press report, an Italian tanker has been sunk in the Adriatic off San Giovanni di Medua, 41.45 N., 19.30 E., by a Greek submarine. (D.S. 489).

GERARCHIA

From British Consul St. Vincent GERARCHIA from San Nicolau arrived St. Vincent this morning. Was seen at sea without flag flying, no flag on side, grey upper works, black hull. Please repeat to Adty. (Sierra Leone 1401/5 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SHAKESPEAR

British, 5029 tons. (ex Convoy O.B.262)
Following has been read. Addressed Freetown W/T.
3333 DE SHAKESPEAR.
1805N. 2111W. attacked by submarine 0900Z/5.

Am proceeding to SHAKESPEAR expect to arrive 1700 N/5.
(VELOX, 1330/5, to C.in C. S.A.)

Your 1415/5.
After arrival at position SHAKESPEAR report situation, if nothing seen proceed to Bathurst for fuel and on to Freetown at best speed to arrive p.m./7 or early a.m./8.
(C.in C. S.A., 1753N/5 to VELOX).

Your 1753/5. Located wreckage of SHAKESPEAR in position 018° 09' N. 021° 05' West. No (?suspicious vessels) found but condition of small boat and raft suggest large life boats have got away. Am sweeping towards St. Vincent until 2300. Expected time of arrival Bathurst 0700N/7.
(VELOX, 2015/5, to C.in C. S.A.)

Submarines Reported.

1500.

Attack (enemy) Submarine in position 055° 30' N. 009° 40' W. (unreliable position) at 1500.
(C.in C. W.A. 1534/5 to AMBUSCADE).

My 1534 amend longitude to read 008 degs. 40' West. (C.in C. W.A. 1636/5 to AMBUSCADE).

Report your position course and speed.
(C.in C. W.A., 1706/5 to AMBUSCADE, HOLLYHOCK, HEARTSEASE.

Your 1704 just met S.L.59 S in position 055° 10', 006° 037 5 ships only.
Oban portion detached, remainder lost contact in heavy weather at rendezvous.
No other escort vessel present. In position to tell HEARTSEASE comply with your 1534. She was sighted 2 hours ago.
(AMBUSCADE, 1756/5, to C.in C. W.A.)

Hunt U-Boat reported in position 055° 30' N. 008° 40' West at 1500.
You will be ordered to return to Londonderry to top up before joining O.B. 270. Also repeat to LEAMINGTON.
(C.in C. W.A. 1700/5 to WITCH, WILD SWAN)

/ WILD SWAN ....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

WILD SWAN disregard my 1700/5 and proceed in execution of previous orders. (C.in C. W.A. 2034/5 to WILD SWAN).

Hunt for U-boat reported in position 055° 30' North 008° 40' West at 1500. (C.in C. W.A., 1704/5 to LEAMINGTON).

1900. Position 18° 05' North 21° 11' West at 0000/5 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1725/5.)

1920. Detach one ship to investigate U-Boat reported in position 054° 04' N. 004° 44' W. at about 1920. (C.in C. W.A., 1950/5 to FLEUR DE LYS).

Cancel my 1950/5. (C.in C. W.A., 2022/5 to FLEUR DE LYS.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian.
1 in Canaries area.
1 entering Gironde.
4 in N.W. Approaches. Positions cannot be estimated but may be within 60 miles radius of:-
(a) 55° N. 14° W.
(b) 55° N. 19° W.
(c) 56° N. 20° W.
(d) 59° N. 23° W. probable to S. or S.E.

German.
1 newly arrived in Freetown - Cape de Verde Islands area.
1 about 30° N. 22° W. northbound.
1 about 41° N. 11° W. southbound.
1 possibly about 49° N. 17° W. outward bound.
1 possibly between Rockall and Bloody Foreland.
3 or 4 between 57° N. and 60° N. 17° W. and 20° W.
Positions cannot be estimated.
1 homeward bound between Faroes and Muckle Flugga.
(D.D.I.C. 1258/5).

/ East Indies. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

East Indies.

0115Z. British ship HARALA reported when in position 025° 00' North 060° 10' East at 0115Z/5 that she was being chased by a submarine. She later cancelled message. It is believed report was false but further investigations are being made. (C.in C. E.I., 0620/5, to E.I. Sqdn.)

China Station.

B 3. Source which has provided reliable information in past has been informed by Japanese Naval Officer that there is a German submarine in an "unfrequented" Japanese port at present time. (N.A. Tokyo 1203/5 to C.O.I.S. Singapore).
(Comment by N.I.D.
There is no confirmation of this report, but is being given an extended distribution due to the comparatively high grading by B.N.A. Tokyo.)

Submarines Attacked.

Am over enemy submarine in position 55.30 N., 8.40 W. possible periscope. (A/C 1500/5).

Have attacked enemy with 4 bombs no result seen. (A/C Duty A 1525/5 to Oban).

Fiji

MOST SECRET.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

W.S. Convoys. Single convoys of the W.S. Series will in future leave the U.K. once a month with reinforcements and military supplies for the Middle and Far East. In most cases the Home Fleet will provide escorts.

HX and SC Convoys. It is intended that in future HX convoys (and possibly SC convoys in summer months) will be routed together with their corresponding OB convoys, through the Minches. From about 20/1 Loch Ewe will be used as a subsidiary convoy assembly port for the East Coast ships from or destined for these convoys.

A/S Protection for Convoys. It is also intended to provide A/S protection for all convoys one day further west than at present.

Convoy HX 99. REPULSE and 3 destroyers left Scapa at 0481/6 to cover inward bound convoy HX 99 in the North Atlantic.

Raider report. MANCHESTER (CS 18) and EDINBURGH left Scapa at 0401/6 to intercept a possible enemy raider passing Iceland from West to East, as indicated by D/F bearings at 0006. They were ordered to return at 2120. CHITRAL and LETITIA were recalled to the Denmark Straits, and the two Trawlers on A/S Patrol between Muckle Flugga and 61° 51'N., 0° 54' W were withdrawn. Air reconnaissance was also employed.

Search for M/V off C. la Hague. KASHMIR and JUPITER left Plymouth this evening to intercept a large merchant vessel which was believed to have passed Gris Nez at 1330 proceeding down channel.

Convoys. Postponed by Fog. OBC 270 held up in the Clyde. FS 81 is postpone 24 hours, FN 79 being postponed 24 hours in consequence.

MOST SECRET.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

Owing to bad weather, all operations last night by Bomber Command, except sea mining, were cancelled. Patrols in the North Sea and various A/S patrols were cancelled or recalled today.

Hudson aircraft of Coastal Command this morning attacked an enemy convoy off Bergen, scoring several near misses, it is believed that one merchant vessel was damaged.

Blenheims of Bomber Command today secured a direct hit on each of two tankers off Hook of Holland.

Enemy Air Activity.

No attacks on shipping were reported today.
A single aircraft dropped bombs near Wrabness R.N. Mining Depot., (near Harwich) causing some damage.

Mining.

Bomber Command aircraft last night laid mines at Brest, St. Nazaire and Lorient.

L.L.Sweepers today exploded a mine near Aultbea.

Casualties.

Tug LION, engaged in servicing Balloon Barrage vessels was destroyed with all hands this afternoon by a mine off Sheerness. Two mines were detonated near Sheerness.

Steam trawler GADRA was sunk early today near Faro Island (Faroes).

North Atlantic.

Certain French Trawlers with German crews are reported to be working as reconnaissance units in the North Atlantic. Any trawlers met there are to be investigated.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Cape Verde Is. — Diversion signals have been instituted to enable the Admiralty to divert ships at short notice to the eastward or westward of Cape Verde Islands.

Operation "Monsoon". — FURIOUS, DELHI, ISIS and ENCOUNTER left Freetown at 0900 today for Takoradi.

Mediterranean.

Air Operations. — The weather this evening was unsuitable for air attack on Naples, Taranto and Sicilian objectives. Naples, where there is a very large concentration of naval and merchant shipping, is to be attacked tomorrow night.
Six Wellingtons attacked Tripoli this evening, dropping many sticks of bombs amongst merchant vessels in the centre of the harbour, causing explosions and cloud of smoke. One large ship received a direct hit amidships, causing an explosion; and a smaller cargo ship was probably hit. Tobruk, Derna and other places were bombed today.
9 Blenheims today successfully bombed Valona, but suffered some losses and damage from enemy fighters.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Meeting with Prime Minister. Adty 1728/1. Following proposed for Agenda (C. in C. Portsmouth 1113/6). Adty 1755/4. Desire to raise following points (C. in C. Nore 1612/6).

HOOD. RODNEY. Admiralty's 029/4. Propose HOOD arrived Rosyth p.m./13 to de-ammunition and de-fuel and enter basin a.m./16. HOOD's destroyer screen enter Oxcars Gate and escort RODNEY to Scapa as soon as latter ship is ready. No ammunition or fuel to be removed from HOOD till RODNEY is ready for sea.
(C. in C. H.F. 2318/6 to C. in C. Rosyth)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/6 (D.C. 1204/6) At 2330/6 (D.C. 2349/6).

Movements.

VERITY. Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0821/6).

NAIAD. Arrived (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1022/6).

5 M/V's Sailed 5 M/V's and TEDWORTH, escorted by CAPE COMORIN and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE for Dartmouth, leaving Needles at 1730 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1233/6 and 1803/6).

ARGUS, KENYA, BERWICK. My 1030/4. Left Gibraltar 1530/5 Route. From 41°N. 20°W. BERWICK proceeds N.E. independently (F.O.C.N.P. 1250/6).

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1527/6).

Nore Command. Ships out of Action. My 0710/5. Amend as follows (C. in C. Nore 1532/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Raider.

D/F bearings may indicate Enemy Raider passing Iceland from West to East. CHITRAL and LETITIA return to Denmark Strait. (C. in C. H.F.0006/6)

REPULSE, screened by BEDOUIN, MASHONA, ESCAPADE, ELECTRA, to proceed to cover H.X. 99 reported at Noon/5 in 59° 38'N. 27° 20'W. steering 074° at 8 knots. If weather suitable for Destroyers proceed at 20 knots. (C. in C. H.F. 0029/6 to REPULSE).

Proceed towards 63°N. 4°W. at 20 knots (C. in C. H.F. 0050/6 to C.S.18).

Sailed from Scapa REPULSE, MANCHESTER, EDINBURGH, ELECTRA, ESCAPADE, BEDOUIN. (A.C.O.S. 0401/6).

My 0006/6. WOLFE and CILICIA proceed to patrol as by F.O.C.N.P. 1530/31. (C. in C. 1031/6).

Return to Scapa (C. in C. H.F. 2120/6 to REPULSE, C.S. 18) See also British Air Activity.

A/S Patrol to N. of Shetlands.

My 1725/4. These Trawlers are being withdrawn today. (A.C.O.S. 1205/6 to C. in C. H.F.).

M/V off Gris Nez.

There are indications that a large M/V passed Gris Nez at 1330 today proceeding down Channel at 12 knots (V.A. Dover 1341/6 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

KASHMIR and JUPITER sail at 2000 today to intercept off Cape La Hague or elsewhere if necessary (C. in C. W.A. 1732/6 to Adty).

Iceland.

In view of intentions, consider following requirements important. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1410/6 to Adty).

P.V.1.

Will be carried out between 2000 and 2230 tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1511/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

URGE. E.T.A. 19 hours late (WHITE BEAR 1107/6 to N.O.I.C. Dundee).

TRIBUNE. Completed 5/1 and sailed to Holy Loch (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1201/6).

SEALION. Arrived (S.6.1340/6).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/7. (V.A.S. 1614/6 and 1821/6).

Temporary Bombing Restriction Areas. A number of S/M's will be passing through S.W. Approaches during next 2 months. Following Temporary Bombing Restriction Areas are established. (V.A.S. 2014/6).

British Air Activity.

Anti-Raider Air R/C. My 0029/6 (See Operations) Request Air R/C today from 11°W. to as far West as practicable, to start on bearing 260° from Kalso Light, Faroes, and work to bearing 280°, to search for East-going Raider trying to pass Faroes Iceland Channel (C. in C. H.F. 0055/6 to C. in C. Rosyth). 1 Sunderland leaves Sullom Voe 0700 and one at 0930 to search as follows. (C. in C. Rosyth 0522/6);

Patrols. Following ordered today: BERT, STAND STAB, IPOP at dusk. (C in C Rosyth 0932/

Brest. During night 4/5th January weather conditions were very bad but 40 aircraft of Bomber Command succeeded in bombing dock area Brest. No direct hit on the cruiser was reported.

Yesterday 5th January, 5 Blenheim of Coastal Command succeeded in dropping bombs in target area and estimate some direct hits on cruiser were obtained. (D.D.I.C. 1028/6 to C. in C. H.P.).

/A.P. 731/6/1
/Available.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Brest. (contd).

A.P. 731/6/1. Available aircraft of Nos. 53 and 59 Squadrons to repeat attack on HIPPER Class cruiser in dock at Brest at 1st light on 7/1. Individual attacks to be carried out by first Squadron and concerted attack by second Squadron. The second attack to be timed to take place one hour after completion of individual attacks by first Squadron. Attack by second Squadron is subject to suitable cloud cover being available.
(H.Q.C.C. 1252/6 to 16 Group, Thorney Island).

A.P./732 6/1. Available aircraft No. 217 Squadron to attack tonight HIPPER Class Cruiser in dock at Brest.
(H.Q.C.C. 1254/6 to 15 Group, St. Eval).

Thames Estuary Barrage Balloons.

X. 136 6/1. With a view to preventing the accurate laying of mines in the Yantlet Channel it has been decided that C. in C. Nore should have authority to alter the positions of balloons in the Thames Estuary barrage from time to time. This will involve a slight alteration to the boundaries of the existing danger area. With effect from noon/8 balloons of Thames Estuary barrage may be flying anywhere within area bounded by straight line joining the following points.
(Air Ministry F.O.6. 1203/6).

Enemy Air Activity.

Harwich.

Bombs dropped near Primer Store, Wrabness, Believed 12 to 13 Bombs. Damage not yet available but not thought serious (O.C.W. Shotley 1306/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Drogheda.

My 1810/3. Information was from Mastrof s.s. HAMPSHIRE COAST at Dublin who reported flashes and explosions betweep 53° 38'N. and 53° 45'N and from 6° W. to the 10-fathom line (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1100/6 to Adty).

Thames Estuary.

GUILLEMOT to proceed to near Cork Light Vessel before dark tonight to act as A/A Defence Ship against Enemy Minelaying A/C.
(N.O.I.C. Harwich 1227/6).

Operation P.W.1.

2 M.T.B's with Mines and 1 M.T.B. with Torpedoes and E.S. Gear to lay Mines in position ordered in my 1236/30/12 when ordered by signal.
(C. in C. Nore 1230/6 to BEEHIVE).

Mining of Zuydecote Passage.

My 1155/25/12 para 2.
1. In order to ensure freedom of movement for our own forces it is desirable to confine minelaying by M.T.B.'s to Area one, two and four referred to in para B. of your 1626/21/12

2. Subject to experience gained in Area one it is requested that you will extend operations to Areas two and four at the earliest opportunity.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1231/6 to C. in C. Nore).

Peterhead Area.

19th M/S Group completed 25% search East side of War Channel from Cruden Scaurs to 57° 55'N ahead of E.N. 52 and are returning to Peterhead.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1355/6 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Thames Estuary.

2 Mines detonated by S.A. Gear. One at 0929/6 in 273° No 1 Sea Reach Buoy 7.2 cables, and one at 0940/6 in 276° No 1. Sea Reach Buoy 0.6. cables.
(Capt M/S. Sheerness 1426/6 to C.in C Nore).

Liverpool.

Your 1108/5. (New prohibited Area for Fishing Trawlers) Concur.
(D.T.D. 1520/6 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

/LION.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

LION. (Tug) Attached to 952 Sqdn for serviceing Balloon Barrage Vessels. Mined and sunk with all hands at 1440/6 in about 320° 2½ cables from No. 5 Medway Buoy. (C. in C. Nore 2156/6 to Adty).

GADRA. My 1320/6 was sent after investigating information received from a coast watcher on 5/1 that British trawlers were navigating north of 062° 18'N. Immediately after this message was sent a vessel was despatched to recall anyone found there.
(ii) Subsequent information was received from trawler GADRA G Y 485 trawling in approx 062° 21'N. 007° 07'W. was sunk by mine at 0500/6. Three survivors landed Thorshave, seven of crew lost. (N.O.i/c Faroes 1804/6).

(Steam Trawler) Sunk by Mine at 0500/6 near Faro Esland. 3 of crew landed at Thorshaven, remaining 7 presumed lost. (H.M. Consul, Thorshaven 1838/6 to Min of Shipping).

Aultbea. One Red Mine exploded by L.L; Sweepers today in 264° 0.6. miles from Gob A. Gheodha Triangle (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 2010/6 to A.C.O.S.).

Enemy Intelligence.

Suspicious Vessel. 8000 -Ton 4-masted Ship steering 010° at 12 knots in 58° 21'N. 8° 35'W. Unable to stop her. Signals EMPIRE something. (AQUAMARINE 1115/6 to S.O. Trawlers, Northern Patrol) My position 58° 54'N 9 46'W. Enemy steering 330° at 12 knots (AQUAMARINE 1420/6) Investigate (No. 18 (R) H.Q. 1500/6 to (?) Duty R) s.s. EMPIRE ENDURANCE spoken by REPULSE at 1705/6 in 59° 35'N. 10° 30'W. (REPULSE 0530/7 to A.C.O.S.) Adty state Ship was probably EMPIRE ENDURANCE. (F.O.C.N.P. 0041/7 to AQUAMARINE)

/M.V's.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1. 1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence (contd).

M/V's off Bergen.

A/C report 5 M/V's in 60° 8'N. 5° 16'E. at 1010, steering South; and 4 M/V's in 59° 39'N. 5° 5'E. at 1030, steering North (C. in C. Rosyth 1120/6 to S/Ms on Patrol) (VAS 1219/6 to S/M's Area A).

W/T. I. suggests Convoy movements between Bergen and Skagerrack (D.D.I.C. 1125/6 to C. in C. H.F.) (VAS 1139/6 to S/M's Area A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

DUCHESS DE BRABANT. (H.M. Trawler) Arrived 6/1 with Condenser trouble.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1100/6 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).

VESTERN (Boom Defence Vessel) My 1524/31. Sailing delayed. Small end defective. Repairs at Arbroath at least one week. (Arbroath 1114/6 to Adty).

MASHONA)
SIKH.) While leaving harbour MASHONA rammed SIKH. Considerable damage to both Ships. No casualties.
(C. in C. H.F. 1130/6 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Homeward bound Convoy cycles.

Your 1916/4 necessary arrangements will be made for all outward bound convoys commencing with O.B.272. It is understood that it is impracticable for Liverpool to advance O.B. 27.
(C.in C. W.A. 1912/6 to Adty).

E.N. Convoys.

Re. Adty. 2238/4. para 1. Suggest that during winter months Commodores be instructed only to take ocean ships to Loch Ewe when assured of a margin of 24 hours between time of arrival and time of R/V with O.B. convoy bound through minches.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1225/6).

Convoys.

H.X.102.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN suggested as ocean escort.
(See America and West Indies).

O.B.C.270.

Not sailing owing to fog.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0610/6).

H.X.99.

Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 0712/6 to LA MALOUINE, ANEMONE, ST. KEENAN, SKIKARI, WELLARD, ST. ZENO, SARDONYX, VIZALMA, LADY ELSA).
Estimated position at 0900/6 60.40 N., 21.52 W, course 090° 8 knots.
No ocean escort.
(C.in C. H.F. 0742/6 to REPULSE).

O.B.270.

My 2125/2. SURPRISE not sailed, fog.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0945/6) Sailed 5 ships.
Escort GARDENIA (N.C.S.O. Oban 1116/6).
Route to keep clear S.C.17. (C.in C. W.A. 1136/6 to ABERDEEN, WITCH, WILD SWAN, etc.)

W.N.63.

Arrived during night. Owing to fog number of ships unknown. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1016/6).

F.N. 75.

Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1034/6)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

H.X.99)
O.B.269.) Routes, and position at 0900. Escort of O.B. 269 meets H.X.99. (D.T.D. 1056/6 to REPULSE).

C.W.22. Intend to sail from Southend 8/1. (C.in C. Nore 1112/6 to Adty etc.) 8 M/Vs. Time Table. Escorts FERNIE, BERKELEY, 3 A/S Trawlers 6 M/S trawlers, 5 M.B.B.vessels, 7 M.L's. (C.in C. Nore 1526/6).

F.S.79. List. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1136/6).

E.N.52. Deletions. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1216/6) SOUTHERN GEM missed convoy sailing and is fog-bound in Forth. (C.in C. Rosyth 0321/6).

S.C.17. If not in touch R/V 1500 55 56'N., 12 25'W M.L.A. 090 4 knots. (VETERAN 1045/6 to DEPTFORD, WOLVERINE, ARBUTUS, DELPHINIUM, BRICA).

H.X.101. Sailing Telegram. Escort AUSONIA, RAJPUTANA. Route re (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1003/6).

H.X. 103. Positions. (D.T.D. 1826/6).

S.L.60. Route from R/V. (D.T.D. 1557/6).

S.C.19. Date and route. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1812/6).

E.N.53. 21 ships 1830/7. HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH, FOWEY. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1505/6).

H.G.49. Convoy sailing telegram as amended by Adty. (D.T.D. 1521/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys.
(Contd.)

W.N.65.	List of ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1002/6).
O.B. 272.	Route (D.T.D. 1750/6).
F.S.81. F.N.79.	My 1017/27/12 and 2155/3/1. F.S.81 postponed 24 hours owing to fog. F.N.79 postponed 24 hours in consequence. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0243/6).
S.L.S.59.	Your 1748/5. Not met position 055° 19'N., 005° 58' West LADY LILLIAN in company, am returning to base. (HEARTSEASE, 0245/6 to C.in C. W.A.)
E.N.52.	THIRLMERE sailed to join and provide additional escort for E.N. 52 as far as Pentland Firth. (A.C.O.S. 0602/6 to C.in C. W.A.)
H.X.99.	Your 2248/4 passed to Commodore H.X.99 who informs me he had been given another route in message 2234/4 not received by ALAUNIA. He is following route given in your 2248/4 am your 1230/5. (ALAUNIA 0900/6 to C.in C. W.A.)
W.N.65.	FAMDANGO sailed to join convoy W.N.65. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1024/6 to Admty.)
F.N.77.	Southend 6/1 departure for Grimsby H.M.D. GOLDEN NEWS with convoy F.N.77. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1254/6).
E.N.53. W.N.66.	Act as additional A/A escort to E.N.53 sailing at 1830/7. Scapa A.C.O.S. sail FOWEY to join W.N.66 due Duncansby Head 1700/10. Code word for E.N.53 MIGHT and W.N.66 CHITTY. (C.in C. Rosyth 1301/6 2129/7 FOWEY).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

O.B.270. Sailed CAMPANULA to join convoy O.B.270. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1430/6 to Adty).

O.B.270. Disregard route in F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 2117/5. Correct route for O.B. 270 is:-
56° 15'N., 08° 00'W.
56° 15'N., 12° 40'W.
54° 33'N., 15° 00'W.
54° 00'N., 25° 00'W.
(C.in C. W.A. 1738/6 to PERIWINKLE).

W.N.64. CURACOA sailed to join W.N.64 at 1430/6. (A.C.O.S. 1532/6).

H.G.50. My 1633/4. Add following ships. (F.O.C.N.A.S. 1621/6).

F.S.83. Proceed at 1400/7 to Methil and act subsequently as additional escort to F.S.83 S.O. of escort LONDONDERRY. C.O. of SOUTHERN nad LONDONDERRY are to meet before sailing to ensure Liaison. If weather permits MANCHESTER CITY will be sailed also to proceed in F.S.83, and F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to have her met and escorted from searched channel to harbour SOUTHERN is to part company from F.S.83. at such speed as will be necessary to escort CHANNEL FISHER from Tyne Piers for both ships to join F.S. 83 due 20 C buoy at 1600/8. SOUTHERN is to part company again from 83 at junction of 154 Q.Z.Y. and 7 Q.Z.F., thence proceeding by 7 Q.Z.F., into Harwich.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1745/6 to SOUTHERN).

MOST SECRET.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

O.B.272.

Your 1916/4 necessary arrangements will be made for all outward convoys commencing with O.B.272.
It is understood that it is impracticable for Liverpool to advance O.B.271.
(C.in C. W.A. 1912/6 to Adty).

F.N. and F.S. Collision Risk.

A collision occurred between PRIMULA escorting F.N. 75 and the Commodore's ship of F.S.78, in vicinity of 54 F Buoy.
Under present limitations of sailing imposed by dark mornings minesweeping requirements and contrary winds there is risk of the rear of the F.N.Convoy or stragglers being south of No.5. Buoy when the F.S. begins to pass this position.
This is most likely to occur with slow F.N.Convoys containing a large number of ships and when easterly winds prevail.
It is considered important that F.S. should not pass No.5 Buoy ahead of time. Request escorts may be informed that when either Convoy is not on timetable F.N. and F.S. must keep each other informed. Also that N.C.S.O's may be instructed to warn Masters of the possibility that stragglers may be encountered on opposite courses between No.5 Buoy and Aldeburgh Light Float. The situation will improve as the mornings become lighter.
(C.in C. Nore, 2048/6 to Rosyth C.in C.)

Reporting Positions.

Attention is drawn to A.M.S.I. 19, para.2
If chased by an enemy submarine or surface craft, Masters of merchant ships, in addition to making a distress message, should invariably report their position, course and speed.
(D.T.D. 1916/3 to G.B.M.S. all areas.)

Cape Verde.

Routes for shipping to avoid U/Boats in vicinity of Cape Verde Islands.
(D.T.D. 1905/6) See North Atlantic).

MOST SECRET.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

O.B. and O.G. Convoys Advanced.

Commencing with O.B.272 dates of sailing of all O.B. and O.G.Convoys are to be advanced one day.
(C.in C. W.A. 1920/6 to F.O.I.C's etc.)

H.X. and S.C.Convoys, Routes.

In future, it is intended that H.X. convoys (and possibly S.C. convoys in summer months, will be routed, together with their corresponding OLB. convoys, through the Minches.

2. From about 20/1 Loch Ewe will be used as a subsidiary convoy assembly port for the East Coast ships from or destined for these convoys.

3. It is also in tended to provide A/S protection for all convoys one day further West than at present. To achieve this, the following arrangements will be made:-

(a) Corvettes to leave outward bound convoys at dusk on the 3rd day as at present and to proceed at best speed to meet the homeward bound convoy at daylight or later, according to weather.

(b) Destroyers to continue with outward bound convoys during the night of the 3rd day, crossing over in daylight to meet the incoming convoy before dark.

4. Outward bound convoys will, therefore, have to sail 24 hours earlier.

5. For 24 hours additional steaming by A/S escorts, there will accrue 24 hours additional destroyer escort by night, when most required, and 24 hours additional Corvette escort for the homeward convoys, part of which will be by day, when most required.

6. By this scheme, Corvettes should normally reach nearly as far West as the vicinity in which the A.M.C. ocean escort parts company, thus reducing the time the convoy is without escort.

7. This is the reason for my 1920/6.
(C.in C. W.A. 1922/6 to F.O.I.C's etc.)

MOST SECRET.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Troop Convoys.

W.S.5.B. Your 1512/5, H.M.S. LINCOLN will be unable to proceed to Clyde owing to defects. Intend sailing her to R/V with convoy 0900/8. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1125/6. to C.in C. W.A.)

W.S.5.B. A.T. 2341/31. and 1824/4. 1. On arrival, details for Gibraltar are to be disembarked and all drafts ex-EMPIRE TROOPER are to be embarked in the two M/V's so that they may sail again with the least possible delay. 2. FEARLESS and FORESIGHT are to sail as escort to Freetown. Ships should proceed at the best speed practicable and should, if possible overtake and join W.S.5.B. before arrival at Freetown. 3. AUSTRALIA is to instruct MONARCH of BERMUDA and CAPETOWN CASTLE as necessary. (D.O.D.(F) 1624/6 to AUSTRALIA, F.O.C.N.A.)

F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1435/6. A.T. 1525/5 and 1624/6.
As MONARCH OF BERMUDA and CAPETOWN CASTLE must be escorted by two destroyers, request you will arrange to sail DUNCAN to reach R/V "X" by 1200/11/1/41 to take over FORESIGHT's duty. 2. All four corvettes may be retained until DUNCAN's return when two should be sailed for Freetown. 3. Anticipated that FORESIGHT will reach Gibraltar in time to take over escort on leaving. 4. Possible that convoy may be delayed; DUNCAN should not be sailed until report of their sailing is received.
(D.O.D.(F) 2350/6 to F.O.C.N.A.).

No movement possible today on account of fog. All ships of W.S.5.B. ready to proceed as soon as conditions permit but D.G. range tests of J.15 and J.28 will have to be cancelled unless time for them can be afforded after arrival at Tail of Bank similarly J.14 will have to sail with only 70% of full fuel capacity, as no more can be bunkered before proceeding down river on account of ship's draught.
(D.S.T. Glasgow 1845/6 to D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

PHOEBE should be prepared to accompany Convoy W.S.5.B. found the Cape.
(D.O.D.(H) 2147/6 to C.in C. H.F. PHOEBE and C.S.15.)

GEORGIC, WARWICK CASTLE, DUCHESS OF YORK.

My 2202/31/12 and 2231/3/1. Cancel reference to GEORGIC and WARWICK CASTLE, who will not now sail.
DUCHESS OF YORK will sail in their place.
(D.O.D.(H) 1309/6 to C.in C. W.A. RAMILLIES ETC.)

DUCHESS of YORK.

Your 1309/6. If escort available for DUCHESS OF YORK on return voyage to U.K. propose embarking troops and air personnel to capacity. If escort not available propose embarking usual 200 for passage U.K. Request your early division and cargo requirements for homeward voyage.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1734/6 to Adty).

Alternate Fast and Slow W.S. Convoys.

To stabilise transport of reinforcements and military supplies to the Middle and Far East, taking into account the shipping and escorting forces available, it has been decided that single convoys of the W.S. series shall leave U.K. about the beginning of each month.

B. It is intended that these convoys shall be alternately slow and fast. W.S.6. leaving about 28/1 will be 11 knots, W.S.7. leaving about 1/3 will be 15 knots, and so on.

C. The scale of escort will be two cruisers throughout the voyage. These cruisers will in most cases be provided from Home Fleet, which will be reinforced as far as possible for this purpose.

D. They will in general return to U.K. via Mediterranean where it is hoped they can be utilised to assist the passage of returning liners and fast M.T. ships.

/E.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Alternate Fast and Slow W.E. Convoys, (Contd.)

E. Advantage will be taken of these convoy escorts to readjust ships abroad as required for refits.

F. The slow convoys of about 35 ships will be divided into two parts so that they will be easier to handle: one of not more than 25 ships to include all those carrying personnel will be escorted by two cruisers, the other will be escorted by an A.M.C. It is intended that the two parts shall proceed in close supporting distance of each other. If the situation permits, the A.M.C. will be withdrawn after reaching the Cape, each part being escorted by one cruiser.

G. The fast convoys will contain not more than 25 ships.

H. To avoid delays in fuelling etc., it may be necessary to arrange for the slow convoy to arrive Freetown shortly after the departure of S.L.Convoy.

I. To take advantage of the fuelling facilities at Durban and Capetown, it will be the general practice for part of the convoy with one cruiser to be detached to Capetown, subsequently rejoining off Durban.

J. If the convoy is too large to make the passage of the Red Sea as one unit, it may be necessary for one part to be delayed at Aden till A/S escort is available. (1st S. L. 1642/6 to C.in C's S.A. and East Indies.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Use of Force.

Your 2234/3 and my 1750/3 para one. Article 78 Prize Manual does not appear to envisage the case where escorting warships are a short distance ahead of ships they are convoying as commonly occurs; shot fired ahed of Merchant ship under such circumstances are liable to be misunderstood by an escort as being intended for her. Under such circumstances I intend authorizing Captains to fire ahead of escortin warship even if it entails firing first shot.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1830/6 to Adty).

North Atlantic.

Operation "Excess".

Your 1040/4. The extent to which it is justifiable to risk the safety of a convoy in order to engage enemy surface forces must depend on a balance between the importance of, and the risk to, the convoy and the importance of the enemy force in relation to the general conduct of the war. This is not a matter which can be determined beforehand. As regards par 625 of the Fighting Instructions and also pars. 635, 636 and 637, it is clearly laid down in the covering memorandum to the Fighting Instructions that the latter are instructions for general guidance and not to be regarded as orders.
(V.C.N.S. 1115/6 to S.O. Force H.).

Your 1115/6. My 1040/4 was made because the third and last para. of Board's conclusions in Aty Letter N.L. 14593/40 of 20/12 appeared to amend (documentary) principles which had hitherto governed my actions.
2. It is now clear to me that no change of principle is intended.
My letter 7/11 of 2/1 now in transit refers.
(S.O. Force H. 1531/6 to Admty).

/Dispositions.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Dispositions.

KENYA ARGUS BERWICK escorted by WISHART position course and speed 1200/6th - 036° 40'N., 011° 20'W., 142° 15 knots routed through 041° 00' 020° 00' 054° 15' 023° 45'. At 041° 00' 020° 00'. BERWICK detached for Portsmouth WISHART for Gibraltar. DERBYSHIRE position course and speed at+00/6th 036° 00'N. 010° 12'W. 270° 13 knots routed through 036° 00' 015° 00' to patrol in area bounded by 042° 50' 021° 20'. 041° 00' 020° 10' 039° 40' 024° 05'. 041° 30' 025° 20'. H.M. Trawler LOCK OSKAIG on patrol off Lisbon. IMPERIALIST on patrol off Cadiz. ALOUETTE sails 1000/7th to patrol off Lisbon. TRIDENT leaves patrol off Ponta Delgada p.m./6 routed for U.K. through 038° 10'N., 022° 40'W. 040° 00' 017° 30' 049° 00' 012° 10'. 10 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1032/6 to SCARBOROUGH, FOLKESTONE).
+ (? Group ommitted).

Bases from which U/Boats operating in Freetown area work.

Your 0250/2. Lieutenant Commander Taylor on my staff has had considerable experience of Cape Verde Is. and considers Sal is the only eminently suitable place in which to bottom and refuel. The fuel could if necessary be brought by air.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1132/6 to Admty).

OSIRIS.
PANDORA.

My 1028/3 Sailing orders for OSIRIS. Request similar instructions may be issued to PANDORA. F.O.C.N.A. pass to Cdr. S.8.
(V.A.A. 1511/6 to F.O.C.N.A.).

PANDORA.

PANDORA will patrol in area between 039° 10'N. and 040° 00'N. and between 010° 30'E. and coast of Sardania during D.3 and will leave patrol for Gibraltar p.m./D.4.
(S.O. Force H. 1511/6 to TRIUMPH, UPHOLDER).

H.G. 50.

F.O.C.N.A.S. 1621/6 see shipping.

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Operation. "Excess".

Gibraltar departures 1700/6 BONAVENTURE DUNCAN HEREWARD HERO HASTY escorting British ships CLAN MACDONALD CLAN CUMMING ESSEX EMPIRE SONG for "Excess". (Wester report). (S.O.I. Gib. 1718/6 to Admty etc).

Air Report.

A.368 6/1. Daily Summary Operations One routine A.S. patrol. One A.S. escort to M.T. ships in straits. One A.S. search to West. One surface recco coastwise to Oran. One surface recco to East. Area covered 0 degrees 30 minutes West to 7 degrees West. (200 Group 1735/6).

TRIDENT. OLYMPUS.

Position of submarines and movements for the following 24 hours are as follows at 0800/7. TRIDENT 038° 10'N. 022 40'W. course 65° 10 knots 3. OLYMPUS, patrol off Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 1824/6).

A/C Report.

Gibraltar R D F reports aircraft other than Swordfish escort shadowin Convoy, bearing 240 degrees 36,000 yards. (F.O.C.N.A. 1852/6 to BONAVENTURE).

Enemy Trawlers.

Certain French trawlers with German crews and fitted with W/T reported working as reconnaissance Units in North Atlantic. Any trawlers met are to be investigated. (C. in C. W.A. 1856/6).

/Cape.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd).

Cape Verde, shipping routes to avoid U/Boats.

With a view to evading U Boats operating in the vicinity of C. Verde Islands it is intended to institute a method by which ships at sea may be diverted at short notice, to be put into operation forthwith. Every ship, except those in S.L. and S.L.S. Convoys, proceeding between West or South African, and South American ports south of C. Roque and U.K. is to be given two routes, one to the eastward and one to the westward of C. Verde Islands. One of these routes is to be followed and the other is for use on receipt of a diversion signal made by G.B.M.S. The route to the eastward is to be as in A.M. 1612/19/11 and 1758/26/11 and that to the westward to be as follows. Northbound shipping to the eastward and southbound shipping to the westward of a line joining the following positions (A) 12° 30'N. 25° 00'W. (B) 13° 30'N 27° 00'W. (C) 16° 50'N. 27° 50'W. Code words for route to eastward of C. Verde Islands will be any four lettered word beginning with a letter from A to M, and for the westward route any four lettered word beginning with a letter N. to Z. A.G.B.M.S. message "Route AXIS" to all ships in Areas one and six (A) would indicate that all ships not in Convoy, sailing between U.K. and West or South African And South American ports, south of Cape Roque, should proceed by the Eastern route. The diversion signal will be initiated by the Admiralty. For the present all shipping is to be routed to the westward of Cape Verde Islands. (D.T.D. 1905/6 to A.I.G. 47 etc).

USK. (S/M).

USK sails for Malta 1830/7.
Approximate date of arrival 15/1.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2004/6 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Convoy Facilities.

Request information as to maximum number of ships in a mixed troop transport and supply ship convoy that can be efficiently handled in a two-day stay at (a) Freetown (b) Capetown (c) Durban.
(D.O.D.(F) 0030/6 to C. in C.S.S.).

Force K. Sweep.

Your 1817/4 approved. As South American Division has not got a carrier consider the possibility of sailing merchant ships from the Plate to form a rough screen ahead of them. To effect this a delay of four days in sailing or diversion of shipping can be accepted. Following arrangements are being made to ensure that the merchant shipping plots in all ships concerned are as accurate as possible.
(1) It is presumed that all ships now receive full details of sailings from South African, South American ports and Cape Verde. (2) Admiralty will signal to ships and authorities in areas 6 A and 9 details of all southbound shipping now at sea south of 20 degs. N. and of all subsequent southbound shipping as it crosses the latitude of 20 degs. N. Para 4 of your 1817/4. Unless Force K. are actually hunting a known raider it is not desired that they should refuel in the neutral ports of South America.
(1. S.L. 0120/6 to C. in C.S.A.).

Adty 0120/6 para. B (2).
Names and speed of British vessels will be indicated by the use of the serial number in C.A.F.O. 2073/40.
2. Report if this C.A.F.O. has been received.
(D.O. D.(F) 1205/6 to C. in C.S.A. Force K. R.A.S.A.D.).

/Adty.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Admty 0120/6. It is intended to implement the suggestion in (a) of this signal with regard to general plan in my 1817/4. This was sent to S.O. (I) Montevideo accordingly repeated to you. You should arrange to proceed as thought best to give cover to this group of ships and be able to obtain and act on any information given by Military. Am making arrangements in order to save you breaking W/T silence but request you inform me if unable to comply or have any important objection. I should welcome suggestions if opportunity occurs and time permits. Group of ships will be leaving Plate about 12/1.
(C. in C. S.A. 2045N/6 to R.A.S.A.D).

Operation "Monsoon".

Departure 0900/6 FURIOUS DELHI ISIS and ENCOUNTER in accordance with C. in C South Atlantic's 1723 N/5.
(S.O.I. Freetown 0957N/6).

Suspicious Vessel.

Vessel resembling Norwegian Tanker FENJA reported as shadowing NUEVA ANDALUCIA Texas to Rio de Janeiro from dawn 23/12 near Tobago Island to 27/12 despite attempt to elude. Vessel painted grey funnel with red band small mast on bridge to carry aerial.
(C. in C. S.A. 1429N/6 to CANTON)

LARGS BAY.

A.C.N.B's 0845/2. Presume that if you are not satisfied that 148 Service Personnel should remain on LARGS BAY for voyage Durban to U.K. excess numbers will be disembarked and transferred to returning W.S.4.B. Ship.
(D.S.T. 1942/6 to C. in C. S.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Broadcast of Convoy.

German broadcast reports following from La Linea. "A number of British warships and merchant vessels are assembling in Gibraltar harbour which allows conclusion that a convoy is being sent off shortly. Vessels include 3 armoured cruisers, 2 aircraft carriers, 2 cruisers, 10 destroyers, 4 submarines, 2 auxiliary cruisers and 4 transport vessels". (1 S.L. 0006/6 to C. in C. Med).

Air Report. Tripoli attack 5/1.

Special Operational Summary. All times G.M.T. 6 Wellingtons 148 Sqn. attacked destroyers M/V's and port facilities Tripoli harbour from 1700 to 1915/5. Details. Hits were observed on power station and large fire seen here. Other fires south of power station were visible 30 miles to sea and were burning throughout attack. Bursts seen on Customs wharf where large column of smoke observed. Customs House hit. Incendiary fires and 3 bursts oil storage area. Many sticks dropped among M/V's and destroyers. All aircraft returned undamaged.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Med., 0830/6).

Italian Warship Dispositions.

My 2247/5. Following is detailed statement of latest information received of effective Italian Ships.

Port.	Unit.	Date Last Reported.
Spezzia	Battleship CAIO DUILIO	21/12
Naples	Battleships VITTORIO VENETO GUILIO CESARE, two 8 inch and two 6 inch Cruisers.	30/12
Palermo	Two 8 inch Cruisers	22/12
Messina	One 8 inch Cruiser	18/12
Taranto	Four 6 inch Cruisers	26/12
Brindisi	Four 6 inch Cruisers	26/12.
	One 6 inch Cruiser unlocated.	

(Capt. O.S. Alexandria 1030/6 to S.O. Force H.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.(contd).

PERICLES.

Oiler. To sail in A.N. 12 to Piraeus to discharge oil for use of H.M. ships (C. in C. Med 1045/6).

Proposed air operations.

C. in C. Med 1405/5 see Mediterranean Volume.

S/M Base at Malta.

Re-establishment of (C. in C. Med 1445/6)

My 1030/6. Air reconnaissance to-day 6/1 shows 2 battleships in Naples and 2 cruisers type unknown in Palermo. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria 1628/6 to S.O Force H)

Shipping for supply of 13th Corps.

As escort for ships supplying 13th Corps in Western Desert cannot normally be provided such ships should be small and of no great use on main trade routes.

As a temporary measure large ships may be employed for evacuation of prisoners only.
(C. in C. Med. 1629/6 to P.S.T.O. Egypt)

Air Reconnaissance, Naples, Palermo, Tripoli.

I 12 6/1 Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 hours 6/1. All times G.M.T. 0613-1055 photographic R.C. Naples 2 Battleships 1 Cruiser in dry dock, 3 destroyers, 2 M/V's 12000 tons 12 M/V's 6 to 8000 tons 20 M/V's 2 to 4000tons. Palermo 2/6-inch cruisers 2 destroyers 4 M/V's 5000 tons 5 M/V's 2000 tons. 0414 to 0859 photographic recco. Tripoli harbour. 5 possibly 6 destroyers 4 of which lying alongside large M/V's north and centre of Harbour. 2 Auxiliaries 4 M/V's 10,000 tons 4 M/V's 6000 tons 14 small M/V's 20 barges 3 seaplances. Operations by Wellingtons 148 Squadron against Tripoli 5/6 January reported in my I.11 6/1. Rome radio reported to-day that Malta was attacked last night but no enemy aircraft even approached island. No enemy air activity over Malta to-day. No naval or military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med., 1710/6).

/TRIUMPH.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

TRIUMPH.
UPHOLDER

After leaving eastern end of patrols at 1900/9 proceed through following positions. to 180° Filfola Island 5 miles.

(2) Adjust speed to arrived off Grand Harbour on 12/1 TRIUMP at 0700 and UPHOLDER at 0730.
(V.A. Malta 1815/6 to TRIUMPH UPHOLDER).

REGULUS (lost).

Your 2335/27/12 approved. (REGULUS paying off)
(Hd. of M. 2028/6 to C. in C. Med).

Communications with 13th Corps.

Your 1455/29. Cable and Wireless are arranging to send RECORDER, in absence of LADY DENISON PENDER in West Africa, but she is not likely to arrive under six weeks, and work of diversion may prove lengthy. It is not clear why requirements of Western Desert forces cannot be met by W/T and/or land telegraph.
(D.S.D. 2101/6 to C. in C. Med).

Air Report Tobruk.

1. Egypt day 4/1. 3 Blenheims bombed Tobruk starting a large fire visible to the returning aircraft when over Bardia. 3 Further Blenheims attacked Tobruk at dusk, bombs falling on South Eastern corner of town. Night 4/5 Jan. Two Wellingtons bombed Tobruk dropping bombs among large fires started previously by other Wellingtons and increasing the flames. All aircraft returned safely. Above operations additional to those reported in my A. 809 5/1. Day 5/1. All bombing operations directed aigainst Tobruk with following results
4 Blenheims hit naval barracks.
3 Blenheims dropped bombs on buildings at east end of town. 3 further Blenheims attacked aerodromes hitting buildings on Southern Boundary. Three Blenheims dropped bombs on the centre of the town.

/These.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air Report Tobruk. (contd).

These last were intercepted by 3 Macchi 200 one of which they damaged and probably destroyed. All aircraft returnedsafely. During the day enemy fighter and bomber activity was very much greater than on previous days. Hurricanes patrolled between Tobruk and Bardia and attacked enemy aircraft on landing grounds. 3 S. 79 and 7 CR. 42's were destroyed in combat, with 1 S.79 and 2 CR. 42 damaged. Two S.79 and 3 CR. 42's were damaged on ground. Australian Gladiators patrolling over Gambut area intercepted 12 S.79's about to attack one of H.M. ships and compelled them to jettison bombs. Reconnaissances reported no movements between Apallona and Tobruk. 10 ships were observed moving west off Ras El Hilah. Six Wellingtons dropped 15,000 lbs. of bombs on Tobruk all falling in the town. Cloud prevented assessment of results. All our aircraft returned safely. G.H.Q. M.E. report operations at Bardia completed. Total number of prisoners captured estimated at 35,000

Bardia captured.

Valona.

2. Greece. 5/1. 8 Blenheims were compelled to abandon raid on Valona by very bad weather conditions. One Sunderland patrolled South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping.

Massawa U/Boat attacked

3. Sudan. 5/1 6 Blenheims attacked submarine moored in Massawa, bombs overshooting target by 75 yards. Three submarines were observed in harbour with a possible 4th. 1 destroyer observed in floating dock. All aircraft returned safely. Blenheims photographed Keren and made 1 anti submarine patrol off Port Sudan.

Moyale bombed.

4. Kenya. 31 and 4/1. S. A.A.F. made 2 patrols Mombasa and 1 patrol Zanzibar and Pemba channels 1 warship escorted in Dar Es Salaam. Reconnaissances made of Moyale, Omo River Delta, Gerile and Liboi areas. Bombs dropped on M.T. North of Moyale by reconnaissance aircraft. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 2140/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy Facilities.

Request information as to maximum number of ships in a W.S. Convoy that can be passed through the Red Dea, assuming two cruisers available as escort as well as your present Red Sea Force. 2. Should this number fall short of the number in a future convoy, how many could be handled at Aden to await return of escort.
(D.O.D. (F) 0031/6 to C. in C.E.I.).

Kismayu.

Proposed air operations in Admty 1726/3. Objections, etc.
(C. in C. E.I. 04302/6, See Operations Vol.

Mogadiscio.

My 0456/5. (Orders to COLOMBO). No ship at Mogadiscio.
(C. in C. E.I. 0332z/6 to Nairobi etc).

S/m's at Massowa.

N.O. in charge Port Sudan 1702/3.
I am informed that photograph of Massowa taken 5/1 appears to confirm pilot's statement that presence of one addition to three submarines revealed in photo-graph taken 3/1. Crew thought they observed a 5th crash dive in Fleet Anchorage but I consider this most improbable. This report would appear to discount probability of submarine reported in my 0634/6 being Italian (C. in C. E.I. 0456Z/6 to Adty).

BARALA. S/M Report.

My 0620/5 passed to Admiralty (i) Following from BARALA, S/M sighted about an hour before dawn 1 mile away by master and mate. Visibility good. Conning tower of S/M and hull visible for four minutes. Sighted (corrupt group) bow broadside bn but when placed astern came end on. S/M did not attack. When dawn broke there was no sign of S/M but smoke observed (ii) I assess report as B.4. N.O.I.C. Karachi is to investigate further on ship's arrival.
(C. in C. E.I. 0634z/6 to E.I. Squadron).

/German.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.(contd).

German U/Boats and Aircraft carrier.

An unconfirmed report from a source whose reliability is unknown states as follows (i) it is reported that some submarines of 500 ton displacement some of U 37 and U 38 Class and one or two of 200 tons carrying 8 tubes and two 4.7 guns are operating in Indian Ocean. (ii) Bombay Section of the (? German) Espionage Section have received instructions that during 1st week of January 1941 one aircraft carrier of Graf Zeppelin Class carrying about 40 aircraft will be operating in the Indian Ocean. Ship said to carry 16, 5.9 and 10, 4.1 inch guns plus A/A guns. (iii) Submarines and aircraft carrier will operate together and developments expected in Indian Ocean during 1st half of this month (January).
(F.O.C.R.I.N 0710Z/6 to C. in C.E.I).

Indian Ocean.

Crew of ESPERANCE.

Re repatriation (C. in C. E.I.0740Z/6).

Troop movements to M.E.

Details (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0833Z/6).

Dhows.

A case has occurred of four dhows sailing from Surr in Sultanate of Muscat for Zanzibar and Mombasa being sent into Mogadishu by Italian aircraft. One was released as cargo was unacceptable but the three others with cargoes of dates were detained (ii) Nakhodas of British dhows are to be instructed, and of neutral dhows advised to keep at least 120 miles from Italian coasts and only to make landfall on British coasts. Remind them of 30 mile dangerous zone off Italian coasts and encourage them to ignore Italian aircraft orders.
(C. in C. E.I. 0752Z/6)

F.O.C.R.I.N. 0710/6 is being passed to you for information. Admiralty remarks requested.
(C. in C. E.I. 1134/6 to Admty).

/STRATHAIRD.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (contd).

STRATHAIRD.

P.S.T.O. Egypt 1215/4. Request immediate reply whether STRATHAIRD is proceeding to U.K. on completion of disembarkation of prisoners at Bombay.
(P.S.T.O. India 0748Z/6 to D.of S.T).

Independent Sailings, Zigzagging.

Cancel my 1128/4 and substitute as follows. Ships proceeding independently in area 3 are to proceed best possible speed and zigzag by day and in moonlight when in the following area. A north of 010 °N. and west of 055°E. B. North of 021° N. and West of 067° E. Ships in the above area but in less than 100 fathoms are not to zigzag.
(C. in C. E.I. 1028/6 to C.B.M.S. Area 3).

KANIMBLA.
TALAMBA.

KANIMBLA is to leave Durban p.m./7 and proceed Mauritius passing through position (a) 030°S. 036°E. (b) 024°20' 040 (c) 037° 046°(d) 020° 40' 055° and adjusting speed to arrive a.m./14. KANIMBLA will be required to escort TALAMBA leaving Mauritius a.m./15.
(C. in C. E.L. 1334Z/6 to KANIMBLA).

Air Report.

Operational summary No. 208 for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 6/1. No operations over I.E.A. 1 Blenheim 203 Squadron returned from convoy duty based Kamaran.
(A.H.Q. Aden 1625/6).

Massawa, U/Boat Attacked.

Attack by Blenheims on U/B at Massawa 5/1 (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 2140/6). See Mediterranean.

Kenya.

S.A.A.F. patrols and bombing of Moyale (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 2140/6) See Mediterranean.

Mine.

Mine exploded 23/12 at Shuma Island Red Sea 16.40 N., 41.34 E. Similar mines are reported to the S.E. Thought they may have floated from Assab or Massawa (D.S. 490, 7/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

E. of S.T's 0001/3.
It is hoped QUEEN ELIZABETH will be ready to sail from Singapore by February.
(C.in C. China, 0243Z/6, to Admty.)

Indo-China, Trade.

C.in C. China S 0945/4. (Re sailings between Indo China, Hong Kong and Singapore) Shipping Control Advisory Board consider that Wo Fat Shing should be regarded as an established line for this trade.
Recommend that LYEEMUN be requisitioned under some scheme and placed on this service being transferred to Colonial Scheme later if considered desirable.
Early decision requested.
(Comm., Hong Kong, 0455/6, to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

H.X.101 Convoy S.C.19.

Sailing telegram (S.L.N.O. Halifax 1008/6) Date, and route (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1212/6).

EUPHORBIA KYLEGLEN not arrived.

Following ships have not arrived. Your 0030/12 EUPHORBIA. Your 1655/17 KYLEGLEN. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1554/6).

A.M.C. Ocean escorts.

Adty. 1859/21/12 and 1302/28/12. In order to afford cover to independent shipping request, you will instruct A.M.C.s returning to Halifax to adjust their course so as to provide maximum protection without unduly prolonging their return voyage passing close South East of position (?Z)
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1252/6 to R.A. 3 B.S.)

Information for SEVERN

V.A.(S) 2154/5 para. D. Request you will pass necessary information regarding movements of North Atlantic Escort Force of SEVERN's movements.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1302/6 to R.A.3 B.S.)

ORONTES H.X.102.

S.S. ORONTES, engaged as a transport for carrying personnel to Halifax, will be ready to sail from the U.K. about 20/1. Suggested that ROYAL SOVEREIGN provide ocean escort for H.X.102 and then escort ORONTES to Halifax. Request your remarks.
(D.O.D.(H) 2251/6 to R.A. 3 B.S.)

Australia.

MANOORA TRIENZA

H.M.A.S. MANOORA escorting TRIENZA arrived Nauru 1833/5. (A.C.N.B. 1256/6, to Admty.)

New Zealand.

ACHILLES A.N.I.

Following received by N.O.I.C. Auckland (Begins) 0245Z/6 departure ACHILLES with convoy A N 1 (ends).
(N.Z.N.B., 0945Z/6, to Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.1.1941
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PROCIDA.

Arrival 3/1 PROCIDA.
(Valencia, 0017/6).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LELLO
MAURO CROCE.

Departures 3/1 Italian Steamers LELLO and MAURO CROCE both for Genoa.
(Valencia 0017/6).

GERAKOHIA.

Arrived St. Vincent, C.V. on 5/1 from St. Nicholas (C.V.) where she had been since outbreak of war (D.S. 490, 7/1).

MAURO CROCE.
LELLO.
MAR NEGRO.

5/1 arrivals and departures MAURO CROCE from Genoa arrivals LELLO 6/1 MAR NEGRO.
(Barna 1246/6).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.1.1941
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

EMPIRE THUNDER — (British, 5965 tons) Following has been read. SSSS 59.14 N., 12.43 W., EMPIRE THUNDER torpedoed. (Lyness, T.O.R. 1044/6)

Proceed to assistance of EMPIRE THUNDER torpedoed in position 59° 14' N., 12° 43' W at 1044. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, to SALVONIA)

Sailed SALVONIA to assistance of EMPIRE THUNDER (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1220/6)

SHAKESPEAR (Torpedoed 5/1) — British ship SHAKESPEAR from Cardiff to Alexandria sunk by Italion submarine 0700/5, 180 miles North East of Sal Island, 19 killed and missing, 23 survivors landed on Sal Island 1000/6. Life boat towed within sight of land by submarine. Stated some of crew seriously injured, Master safe. Arranging transport to S. Vincent for treatment and repatriation now. (Consul, St. Vincent. 1825/6, to C. in C., S.A.)

Submarines Reported

1500/5 — Unsuccessful search for 12 hours. Nothing visible at daylight. Intend returning Londonderry. (WITCH, 0930/6 to C. in C., W.A.)

Cancel my 1704 (LEAMINGTON to hunt for U-Boat) Proceed to Londonderry. (C. in C., W.A., 1044/6 to LEAMINGTON)

1045 — D/F at 1045 B.S.T. Italian U-Boat in position 55° 20' N., 16° 00' W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1142/6)

1201 — Following has been read. SSSS 54.50 N., 24. 00 W., TRADER sighted submarine (Lyness W/T T.O.R., 1201/6)

/Estimated.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.1.1941
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: 1 in Canaries area
1 was in 58° 30' N., 23° 30' W., at 2021/5 probably proceeding S.
1 was in 55° 20' N., 16° W., at 1045/6

No recent reports of 2 more in N.W. Approaches but probably near latitude 55° N or 56° N., and west of 13° W.

German. 1 in Cape de Verde Island Area.
1 about 34° N., 18°-21° W., northbound.
1 about 38° N., 12° W., southbound
1 was in 59° 14' N., 12° 43' W., at 1003/6
1 was in 54° 50' N., 24° W., at 1201/6
1 in about 60° N., 20° W.
2 more in N.W.Approaches whereabouts unknown but may be N. or N.E. of Rockall.
1 between Shetlands and Norway homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1335/6)

East Indies

0620/5 — Sighted by BARALA (See FOREIGN STATIONS, East Indies)

Submarines Attacked

1232 — Am over enemy submarine in position 58° 38'N 11.50 W., (A/C, Duty H. T.O.R. 1232/6 to R.A.F., Oban)

Aircraft reports having damaged U-Boat large patch of oil in position 058° 38' N 011° 50' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1352/6. to LA MALOUINE)

Your 1420/6. Have searched assisted by aircraft. No trace of oil or of aircraft who attacked. Am proceeding with SARDONYX to comply with your 1230/5. (Weather)
(SHIKARI 1803/6, to A.C.W.A.)

Sunderland aircraft proceeding to position of torpedoed EMPIRE THUNDER sighted U-Boat on surface at range of 1 mile. Aircraft came out of cloud and dropped 2 depth charges 20 feet either side and 20 yards ahead of U-Boat which was just submerged as D.C. were dropped. U-Boat was buff coloured and large buff coloured plate was blown into air followed by 1 large air bubble in water and a patch of oil 1 mile across. Position of attack 58° 38' N., 11° 50' W., LA MALOUINE ordered to investigate. Consider possible U-Boat destroyed. (C. in C., W.A., 1808/6 to Admty)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.1.1941.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

Ships detached in accordance with my 1440 report whether any evidence to indicate that U-Boat torpedoing EMPIRE THUNDER is same as that attacked by aircraft in position 58° 38' N., 11° 50' W., at 1300. (C. in C., W.A., 1902/6 to LA MALOUINE, SARDONYX, SHIKARI)

Trawler reports Belgian Trawler was 10 miles North East position where aircraft attacked submarine 058° 38' N., 011° 50' W at 1230/6. Trawler was steering North East at about 10 knots. (C. in C., W.A., 1944/6 to LA MALOUINE)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.1.1941.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

Ships detached in accordance with my 1440 report whether any evidence to indicate that U-Boat torpedoing EMPIRE THUNDER is same as that attacked by aircraft in position 58° 38' N., 11° 50' W., at 1300. (C. in C., W.A., 1902/6 to LA MALOUINE, SARDONYX, SHIKARI)

Trawler reports Belgian Trawler was 10 miles North East position where aircraft attacked submarine 058° 38' N., 011° 50' W at 1230/6. Trawler was steering North East at about 10 knots. (C. in C., W.A., 1944/6 to LA MALOUINE)

Tiger

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Convoys W.S. 5 B — This convoy is delayed by fog which prevents the Clyde portion from sailing.

H.X. 99 — REPULSE and 3 destroyers returned to Scapa this evening from covering this convoy in the North Atlantic.

Search for M.V. off Gris Nez — KASHMIR and JUPITER returned to Plymouth this evening, without encountering the large merchant vessel believed to have passed Cape Gris Nez at 1330/6 bound down Channel.

Patrol in Channel — KASHMIR left Plymouth late this evening with JERSEY, to cover shipping in the Channel.

Attack on U-Boat — ANEMONE, proceeding to meet and escort Convoy H.X. 99 sighted a U-Boat this morning 300 miles W.N.W. of Butt of Lewis, and, with LA MALOUINE attacked and it is believed sank the submarine.

Halifax Escort Force and N.P. — It has been approved in principle to combine the forces available for duty with the Halifax Escort Force with those required for the Denmark Straits area of the Northern Patrol. For this purpose seven A.M.C's will be added to the Halifax Escort Force. The two A.M.C's on patrol in Denmark Straits wi will fuel and water at Hvalfiord.

British Air Activity

Bad weather caused all operations last night to be cancelled. Very few patrols were flown today; none were flown in the North Sea. An A/S patrol was carried out north-west of the Shetlands and air escorts for convoys were carried out in the N.W. Approaches.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.12.1941
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Two armed trawlers were unsuccessfully bombed and machine gunned off Ramsgate today.

Mining

GUILLEMOT last night operated near Cork L.V. as A.A. defence ship against enemy mine-laying aircraft.

SS H.H. PETERSEN (975 tons) in Convoy F.S.79 was mined and sunk early this morning, 12 miles East of Southwold.

Mines were exploded off Liverpool, Spurn Head and in the Thames Estuary.

Objects believed to be mines were dropped off Ramsgate this morning.

North Atlantic

A large suspicious tanker was reported at 1310 off Cape Sinos steering a southerly course in territorial waters.

South Atlantic

With reference to report of enemy surface vessel 4/1, sailings from River Plate ports are being adjusted so that all ships available can be sailed in a group. Cover will be provided for the group as a hole.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

It is reported that all French warships left Beirut this morning, proceeding northward. They are believed to consist of two light cruisers, two sloops, one netlayer and 4 submarines.

Maintenance of supplies by sea to Sollum for the 13th Corps is proceeding.

Prisoners ferry service restarted 4/1.

Bombing and torpedo bombing attacks continue, but so far without causing damage. A supply base is being established at Bardia.

Operation "Excess"

Force H in RENOWN with MALAY, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and destroyers left Gibraltar this morning.

C. in C., Med. in WARSPITE with VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, CALCUTTA, YORK, ORION and destroyers and supply ships left Alexandria today.

East Indies

R.A.F. last night bombed the submarine base at Massawa. Results were not seen.

MOST SECRET.

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

BATH,
ST. ALBANS.
BRIGHTON,
LANCASTER.

Your 1047/1 and 2286/3. Concur BATH and ST. ALBANS be manned by Norwegian Crews after training, and to be relieved by BRIGHTON and LANCASTER after working up. (D.O.D.H. 1209/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

North Rona-Iceland.

Your 1159/4. Matter will be placed on Agenda for Thursday's conference. (A.C.N.S.H. 1641/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

Conference of 9/1.

I would like to raise following points. (C. in C. H.F. 2207/7 to Adty.)

Defence of H.F.

DELUGE.

At 1130/7. (D.C. 1151/7).
At 2330/7. (D.C. 2354/7.)

Oban.
A/A Defence of Convoy Anchorage.

Your 1507/6/1. Four forty M.M.Bofors Guns in position ready for action. Three Guns on Lismore Island, one gun on mainland. Understand one further gun being positioned on mainland but date cannot be stated. (N.O.I.C. Oban. 1047/7 to Adty.)

My 1250/4. Guns are now ready for action. Ship may be withdrawn. (D.O.D.H.1745/7 to C. in C. H.F.) ARETHUSA return to Scapa as convenient, without relief. (C. in C. H.F. 1849/7 to F.O.C. 2nd.C.S.)

Movements.

REPULSE.

My position 59° 40' N. 8° 45' W. E.T.A. Cape Wrath, 3 Destroyers in company 1300/7. (REPULSE 0530/7 to A.C.O.S.)

Home Command, Ships out of Action.

My 0710/5. Amend as follows. (C. in C. Home 0720/7.)

DERBYSHIRE.

Left Gibraltar 1730/5 for Area E.2. F.S. (F.O.C.H.F. 1220/7 to Western Patrol.)

CILICIA.

E.T.A. Patrol 2100/7. (CILICIA 1337/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

/PRINCE.....

MOST SECRET.

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

PRINCE OF WALES. My 1640/4. Time Ship will pass Bar Light amended to 1600/21. (D.C.D.H. 1503/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.C.S. 1532/7).

MANCHESTER, EDINBURGH. Arrived Scapa 1540. (A.C.C.S. 1633/7.)

ARGUS, KENYA, REVENGE. Adty. 1938/1. Original A/S Escort for ARGUS not now available. ARGUS and KENYA to pass through 55° N. 26° W, and join REVENGE in 62° 5' N. 20° W, at 1000/12. B.S.T, where Destroyer Escort joins.(C. in C. W.A. 1639/7 to C.S.10.)

Nore and Harwich. Movement Summary. (N.C.I.C. Harwich 1646/7.)

HOOD RODNEY. Your 2318/6. Concur. Propose HOOD arrive No. 14 Buoy at 1515/13, and RODNEY then proceed to Scapa.(C. in C. Rosyth 1757/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

CALIFORNIA. My 1030/4 and 1250/6. Amend route to pass through 55° N. 26° W. and join REVENGE, ARGUS, and KENYA in 62° 5' N. 20° W, at 1000/12. B.S.T. (F.O.C.N.P. 2320/7 to CALIFORNIA.)

Operations.

M/V off Gris Nez. KASHMIR, JUPITER, sailed from Plymouth 2050/6.(C. in C. W.A. 0016/7.) Suspect enemy speed over 15 knots. Passing Ushant at dawn. (KASHMIR 0634/7 to C. in C. W.A.) 3 Blenheims are coming to escort you at dawn and 3 Beauforts to attack M/V's.(C. in C. W.A. 0815/7 to KASHMIR.)

Patrol/

MOST SECRET.

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Patrol in Channel.

Pass Gate at 2040 today to patrol between longitude of Lizard and Start Point. Return Plymouth to arrive Rame Head 1030/8 to cover Shipping in Channel. (C. in C. W.A. 1537/7 to KASHMIR, JERSEY.)

Submarines.

Submarines are not to enter following areas unless specially ordered to do so by V.A. (S) or unless acting on enemy reports or unless in pursuit of the enemy.
(1) Within 20 miles of the whistle buoys off Gironde.
(2) Within 20 miles of Ile de Groix.
(3) Within 30 miles position 047° 15' North 002° 16' West. (S.S. 1016/7 to TIGRIS, TALISMAN.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/8. (V.A.S.1717/7 and 2156/7.)

SEVERN.

Intend to sail with PHILANTE at 1300/9. Request submerged bombing restrictions 20 miles either side of line joining following positions at times stated. (S.S. 1823/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Ordered today: SA.1A., S.A.2., S.A.3., HORNLI, and IPOP at Dawn and Dusk. (C. in C. Rosyth 0838/7.)
Patrols FAIR and IPOP dawn cancelled for today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0950/7.)
Patrols SA.3., HORNLI, and IPOP dusk cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1344/7.)

Brest.

53 and 59 Sqdns., to attack tonight Cruiser in dock at Brest during moonlight. (H.Q.C.C. 1105/7 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

MOST SECRET.

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Wrabness. D.A.S.O. Wrabness reports Air Attack yesterday. Fence damaged. No casualties (C. in C. Nore 0931/7.)

Ramsgate. At 1058/7 two A/C machine-gunned and dropped 4 Bombs near Trawlers 40° 1 mile from Ramsgate Pier. No damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1145/7.) At 1220/7 one A/C dropped Bombs near Trawler 40° 1 mile from Ramsgate Pier. No casualties or damage. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1240/7.)

Moray Firth. 3 Enemy A/C in 58° 20' N. 3° E. at 1335/7. (D.D.I.C. 1400/7.)

Mining.

Peterhead Area. Search of War Channel. Weather permitting intend sailing 19th group to R/V 110° 6 miles Cruden Scaurs at 0800/8, and search East side of War Channel ahead of EN 53 to position 000° 14 miles Kinnaird Head, expected time of arrival 1500/8, then to Peterhead. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1200/7 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

H.M.PETERSEN. (British, 975 Tons.) Mined and sunk in about 020° 3 miles from 54. E.Buoy. All crew saved. (VIVIEN 0400/7.)

Shetlands. N.O.I.C. Lerwick reports a loud Explosion to South of Sumburgh at 1127. (C. in C. H.F. 1242/7 to C.S.18.)

B.S.48. Sailed TEVIOT BANK at 1406. (F.O. Humber 1438/7.) Sailed INTREPID at 1430 (F.O.Humber 1459/7.)

Ramsgate. At 1055 Enemy A/C dropped objects believed to be Mines 12 cables North of wreck of HARCALD. (N.O.I.C.Ramsgate 1500/7.)

/ZME. 12.....

MOST SECRET.

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Z.N.E. 12.

To be carried out on Night of 8/1 or as soon after as possible. 6½ miles 146° from 51° 24' N. 5° 46'W. (V.C.N.3. 1529/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

Thames Estuary.

Mine detonated by S.A. Gear at 1030/7 in 067° Nore Light Vessel 1.1.mile. Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1635/7.)

P. W. 1.

Weather permitting, carry out Operation tonight, M.T.B's 31,32,34, sailing as suggested. Mines not to be laid unless positions can be fixed with reasonable accuracy. (C. in C. Nore 1640/7 to BEEHIVE.)

Motor Torpedo Boats 31, 32 and 34 leave harbour 2000 7th January proceed towards enemy's coast returning dawn or possibly earlier.(N.O.I.C. Harwich 1646/7.)

Myggenaes.

At 1240/8/1 a Floating Mine sighted and towed in P/V cutter by EDINBURGH about 8 miles West of Myggenaes. Details. (A.C.O.S. 1757/7.)

Off Shetlands.

C.S.18. reports MANCHESTER picked up in P/V a British Mine-Mooring at 1000/7 in about 60° 19' N. 3° 38' W. (A.C.O.S.1757/7.)

Liverpool.

One Magnetic Mine exploded by A.A. Sweep 275° Bar Light Vessel 3½ miles. One Mine, probably Acoustic, exploded by Fishing Trawler 260° Bar Light Vessel 18½ miles.(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1835/7.)

Spurn Point.

At 1610/7 one Mine exploded by M/S Trawler 144° Spurn Point Lighthouse 1.8 miles. (F.O. Humber 2240/7.)
At 1625/7 one Mine exploded by M/S. Trawler 136° Spurn Point 1.2 miles. (F.O.Humber 1840/7.)

MOST SECRET.

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Fair Isle. Reports one small fast Vessel at 0917 in 056° 5 miles, steering 325°
(A.C.O.S. 0943/7.)

ADMIRAL SCHEER. My 1951/4. Para. 2 delete reference to SCHEER. Para. 9. Cancel and substitute DUQUESA reported being attacked by a Pocket Battleship in 00° 57' N. 22° 42' W. on December 18th. This may have been the 8" Cruiser engaged by BERWICK on 25/12, and now in dock at Brest. If this is so, no news of SCHEER has been received since her attack on HX 84 on 5/11 in North Atlantic.
(D.N.I. 1743/7. A.M. 680.A.)

MOST SECRET.

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

SEA GIANT. (Rescue Tug) My 1247/6. Defects to accommodation and steering gear will not be completed before 15/1. (F.O.I.C.Tyne 0959/7.)

TOURMALINE. (A/S Trawler) Delayed at Tilbury with Boiler defects. Estimate completion 11/1. (F.O.I.C. London 1245/7.)

ARCTIC TRAPPER. (A/P Trawler) Delayed at Tilbury. Minor defects. Expect complete and sail 8/1. (F.O.I.C. London 1247/1.)

ARGUS. Your 1150/6. Propose urgent defects be carried out during 14 days ship is available. Not to be regarded as refit. (C. in C. H.F. 1558/7.)

R.A.F. Barge. My 1817/6. 60-foot R.A.F. Barge reported adrift between 0200 and daylight /6 off Kinnaird Head. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1612/7).

EMPIRE MARINER. (British, 4957 Tons) Broken down 326° Inistrahull 10 miles. Request Tug. Am going to try to tow towards Inishowen Head. ERICA in company. (ARBUTUS 1815/7 to C. in C. W.A.). Broken down at 1815/7 in 55° 36'N. 7° 19'W, endeavouring to make Londonderry with ARBUTUS and ERICA in company.

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys-Contd.

S.L. 60

Meet S.L. 60 31 ships unescorted 1000/9 068° 53° 35' N., 16° 00' W., 068° 8 knots then through 54° 15' N., 13° 20' W., 55° 55' N., 10° 00' W., Split in 55° 55' N., 08° 30' W.
B. R/A Cochrane in CASTALWA for Manchester
C. Route K
D. 56° 05' N., 06° 38' W.
56° 16' N., 05° 48' W.
56° 22' N., 05° 49' W. thence to anchorage in Lynn of Lorne North of Black Island. (C. in C., W.A., 0700/7 to ABERDEEN WITCH, WILD SWAN, FLEUR DE LYS, CAMPANULA, PERIWINKLE, GARDENIA.)

W.N. 66

My 1657/4. Retard sailing zero 25 hours owing to fog. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0953/7)

O.M. 271

1715/8 ROSEMARY. Eleven. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1000/7)

W.N. 66

W.N. 66 cancel my 1631/7. W.N.Convoys now reverting to old route as used previous to W.N. 63. Amended pre-sailing telegram for W.N. 66 as follows. (N.C.S.O. Sub-Office Greenock, 1639/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

F.S. 79

F.S. 79 expected time of arrival Nore Light vessel 1400 Reference 0400 from H.M.S. VIVIEN all 17 survivors (Ex SS H.H. PETERSEN) are in VIVIEN, no casualties. (WALLACE, 1015/7 to C. in C., Nore)

F.S. 79

F.S. 79 arrived. Non arrivals:-
KOLSDAL and WESTOWN reported put into Tyne.
PHEACIAN reported returned to Tees.
H.H. PETERSEN reported sunk.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 2359/7 to C. in C., Nore)

/F.N., F.S.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys-Contd.

F.N.,
F.S. Convoys

Under the present limitations of sailing imposed by dark mornings, monesweeping requirements and contrary winds, there is a risk of stragglers from F.N. convoys, particularly large slow F.N. convoys, being south of N. 5 buoy when the F.S. convoy begins to pass this position. Accordingly:-
F.S. should not pass No 5 buoy ahead of time and F.N. and F.S. should keep each other informed when either convoy is not on timetable.
N.C.S.O's are requested to warn masters of the possibility of stragglers being encountered on opposite course between No 5 Buoy and Aldeburgh Light Float. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1143/7 to R.E.F. 29)

F.N. 79
F.N. 80

My 2155/3. Amend. Escorts for F.N. 79 WESTON, VIMIERA, for F.N. 80 VERSATILE, GARTH. (C. in C., Rosyth 1147/7)

F.S. 83

My 1745. SOUTHDOWN is now to escort MANCHESTER CITY both vessels sailing independently of F.S. 83 and proceeding p.m. today as necessary to clear the Forth defences in daylight and to arrive off T.2 buoy Tyne at 0900 tomorrow, where tug WATERMEYER will be available to assume escort and attend on MANCHESTER CITY SOUTHDOWN is subsequently to proceed to Harwich but is not to part company until contact is established with WATERMEYER. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1140/7)

Sailed 2300/7. 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2321/7)

F.N. and F.S. Convoys

Movements to 1200/8.
F.N. 77 due Flamborough Head 1900/7.
F.S. 79 arrives Southend 1600/7.
F.S. 81 due Flamborough Head 0330/8 (sailed Tyne 1500 (F.O.1/c Tyne, 1501/7) Destinations (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1733/7)
F.S. 82 due Flamborough Head 1200/8 (Sailed Methil 1530/7. 9 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 1617/7) Destinations of all ships (F.O.i/c Tyne, 1721/7)
F.N. 78 sails Southend 0830/8.
(C. in C., Nore, 1200/7)

/F.N. 78.....

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys-Contd.

F.N. 78

Convoy F.N. 78 weighs 0930/8 ships to date 17. 2 A/S Trawlers join as additional escorts from Harwich. GUILLEMOT escorting S/M H. 44 leaves Sheerness 0900/8 for Blyth. (C. in C., Nore. 2050/7 to WALLACE, VIVIEM)

H.X. 103
S.C. 19

Your 2251/6 concur but consider it inadvisable for ROYAL SOVEREIGN to proceed East of about 027° 00' W., to avoid U-Boat area and from fuel consideration. If therefore ORONTES is likely to be delayed it would seem preferable for ROYAL SOVEREIGN to escort H.X. 103. Use of ROYAL SOVEREIGN as close escort for one of these convoys will release an A.M.C. for S.C. 19. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1036/7 to Admty.)

H.X. 99

710. From next position after rendezvous H.X. 99 steer to a point 356° 244 miles from splitting point thence to splitting point. U-Boat estimated near 59° 14' N., 12° 43' W. (C. in C., W.A., 1105/7, to V.A. Parker, PENRITH CASTLE)

To avoid U-Boat estimated to be near 59° 14' N., 12° 43' W., amend route for H.X. 99.
From 60° 05' N., 15° 00' W.,
60° 05' N., 09° 30' W., Split in:-
56° 00' N., 09° 00' W.,
Commodore has been informed separately but on making contact confirm that Commodore possesses above route. (C. in C., W.A., 1113/7 to LA MALOUINE, SHIKARI, SARDONYX, ANEMONE)

In view of ANEMONE sighting submarine intend rejoining convoy. Passed near position reported by EMPIRE THUNDER and found only three abandoned boats belonging to her. (SHIKARI, 1223/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

W.N. 64

Arrived 1100/7 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1126/7)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

O.B. 270
O.B. 272

My 0945/1 (0945/6 ? SURPRISE unable to sail to act as A/S escort to O.B. 270) Intend sailing SURPRISE as additional A/S escort for O.B. 272 leaving Clyde 10/1 and parting company in 52° 45' N., 25° 00' W., to proceed to Freetown calling at Ponta Delgada for fuel. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1127/7 to C. in C., S.A.)

O.B. 272. 1030 on 10/1 (route)
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1504/7 to Admty.)

In order that local escorts may continue further to the westward with ocean convoys and consequently meet homeward bound convoys further westward than heretofore, the sailing dates of all outward convoys commencing with O.B. 272 are to be one day earlier than as scheduled in existing programme. (D.T.D. 2105/7)

H.X.102

List. (S.C. No Halifax 1209/7)

O.G. 49

CRISPIN leaves Clyde a.m./8 in convoy O.G. 49. (F.O.C.N.P. 1210/7 to CRISPIN)

Sailed ANTHONY ROCHESTER escorting O.G. 49 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1710/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

O.G. Convoys.

Ships in O.G. Convoys which are bound for South Atlantic ports are to be detached from convoy at the Commodore's discretion when south of 45° N.

S.L.S. 59

Arrived LIBERIAN ROD EL FARAG (Eg.)
DAYROSE LLANCARVAN (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1428/7)

Estimated Positions
W.N. 65
H.X. 99
O.B. 269

Position estimated at 2000/7/1. W.N. 65 058° 20' N., 005° 42' W., E.N. 52 058° 18' N 005° 54' W., ST MAGNUS East of Fair Island bound for Aberdeen H.X. 99 060° 05' N., 013° 30' W., O.B. 269 unescorted 061° 30' N., 019° 00' W., WOLFE, CILICIA approaching Reykjavik and B.P. 42 respectively KELLY leaves Scapa for Greenock 1900. (A.C.O.S. 1531/7)

O.G.O. 49

0400/6/1. Escort HEATHER. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1303/7 to C. in C., W.A..)

/S.L. 60.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

Positions — Of North Atlantic Convoys (D.T.D. 1208/7 to C. in C., H.F.)

Independent sailings, dark hours — My 1340/29/10 and 2115/6/11 (re provision of air escort for independently routed fast ships) cancel all references to 10° W and substitute " at the circumference of a circle with a radius of 150 miles from Malin Head" (D.T.D. 1236/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

Atlantic Convoys — My 2077/21/12. All homeward convoys commencing with S.C. 18 will be met 24 hours earlier than at present by A/S escort 2, 3. Arrangements for informing convoys. 4. A.M.C. ocean escorts which at present part company 24 hours before R.V. will thus leave at new R.V. but should not wait for A/S escort if not met. (D.T.D. 1707/7)

GEORGIC WARWICK CASTLE — Admty's 2202/31 (RAMILLIES to escort SS GEORGIC and WARWICK CASTLE) A/S escort D. 5 in KELLY, KELVIN, KIPLING, PUNJABI. (C. in C., W.A., 1815/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock RAMILLIES)

Convoy Cycle Escort Groups — Your 1916/4 and 2232/4. The convoy Cycle in force previous to 3/1 was found in practice to give the eight Escort Groups employed on Mercantile Convoys inadequate harbour- time for exercises and maintenance The new Cycle introduced remedied this defect, but the latest arrangements will impose more strain than ever on escorts. Explanation.
Two more Escort Groups are therefore required for the new schemes, but it is impracticable with present resources to form more than one. I propose to proceed now with the formation of this extra Group. and request that with this end in view DOUGLAS and KEPPEL may join this Command as soon as possible. (C. in C., W.A., 1857/7 to Admty.)

BEAVERHILL. — Cancel my 1242/7. Route. (Adty. 1617/7).

/S.L. 60.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys- Contd.

S.L. 60. ESPERANCE BAY is to leave S.L. 60 at 2000 tonight and proceed to Newcastle-on-Tyne. Route 56° 50' N., 18° 00' W., 180° Barra Head 10 miles then through Minches using Eilean Troddy passage keeping south and east of a line joining and following positions:- 56° 47' N., 07° 13' W., 57° 40' N 06° 49' W., 57° 57' N., 06° 00' W., 58° 38'N 05° 38' W., then through 58° 44' N., 05° 12' W., thence through Pentland Firth keeping south of a line 58° 43' N., 03° 23' W., Swona Lighthouse 58° 39' N., 02° 53' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1345/7 to C. in C., Rosyth etc.,)

S.C. 18 Will be met by A/S escort 24 hours earlier one days run to westward of R.V. on route already ordered. LACONIA turn round at R.V. and not wait for A/S escort if not met. (D.T.D. 1658/7 to LACONIA)

W.N. 65 W.N. 65 in position 57° 39' N., 06° 35' W., at 1300. (A.C.O.S. 1535/7 to Admty.)

W.N. 67 Cancel my 1203/7 and substitute 2015/9. 15 ships. Route. Code "Rusty" (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1659/7)

E.N. 51 Arrived less GIRONDE (N.C.S.O. Oban 1726/7)

E.N. 53 List with destinations (N.C.S.O. Methil 2010/7) 1830/7. HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH, FOWEY. 18 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1957/7)

W.N. 66 My 1301/6. Cancel second sentence and substitute after passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail FOWEY to join W.N. 66 due Duncansby Head 1700/10 (C. in C., Rosyth 2129/7 to FOWEY).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Troop Convoys

W.S. 5 B

VANSITTART and four ships of Convoy W.S. 5 (b) sailed from Barry Roads. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 0500/7)

W.S. 5 B Avonmouth section 0550/7 escorted by VANSITTART and HINIESTA. 4 sailed. (N.C.S.O. Avonmouth 0615/7)

There has been fog in Clyde area for the past few days which persists. 5 ships of W.S. 5 B are still up river. If the weather does not improve Clyde portion of Convoy will be unable to sail. Further signal will be made. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0901/7 to Admty.)

My 2340/31. Southern route is to be taken. Omit position B two. (D.O.D. (H) 1012/7 to C. in C., W.A. and F.O's and N.C.S.O's Command)

My 0901/7, fog still persists. Clyde portion will be unable to sail today, Tuesday (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1147/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

J14, J15, J17, H 28 and J 33 fog bound at Glasgow. Very doubtful whether any movement possible today as first ship must move not later that 1500 on account of tide. If no movement today none possible until a.m. 9/1 owing to times of high water on 8/1. Further report will be made at 1500. (D.S.T.O Glasgow, 1250/7 to Admty.)

Clyde portion of W.S. 5 B is delayed by fog. (11) Sail Liverpool portion to Moelfre Bay. Arrange A/S and fighter protection. (C. in C., W.A., 1257/to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Convoy W.S.5 B delayed. VANSITTART take Bristol Channel ships to Belfast. N.O.I.C. Belfast sail LINCOLN and VANSITTART with Bristol Channel ships to R/V which will be signalled by N.O.I.C. Liverpool. (C. in C., W.A., 1301/7 to N.O.I.C. Belfast VANSITTART)

/AUSTRALIA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.1.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Troop Convoys

W.S. 5 B-
Contd.

AUSTRALIA and destroyer escort are to proceed to Moelfre Bay, Anglesey to await further orders, leaving harbour today as previously arranged. AUSTRALIA and convoy anchor destroyer escort carry out close A/S patrol. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1303/7 to AUSTRALIA, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, WITHERINGTON

Clyde portion of Convoy is delayed by fog. Sailing of Convoy is therefore postponed 24 hours and all times are to be amended accordingly.
C. in C., W.A. is requested: (a) to hold or deflect other portions of Convoy as necessary: (b) to issue necessary instructions to KENYA and ARGUS. (D.O.D. (H) 1456/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

My 1250/7.(J14, J15, J 17, H28, J33 fogbound at Glasgow) No movement possible today. Pilot Master reports earliest possible time for movement of first ship will be 0730/9/1. (D.S.T.O. Glasgow, 1500/7)

Sailed AUSTRALIA, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, WITHERINGTON escorting W.S. 5 B to anchor Moelfre Bay await instructions. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1755/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

Reference 1301/7 from C. in C., W.A., E.T.A. 038 degrees New Island Light 1.7 miles 0900/8 WINCHESTER CASTLE, BORDE, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, MONARCH OF BERMUDA in company. Request berths on arrival. VANSITTART requires 160 tons of oil fuel. (VANSITTART, 1750/7 to N.O.I.C. Belfast)

If weather is clear sufficiently request you will sail either NAIAD or PHOEBE to provide A/A protection to Liverpool portion of W.S. 5 B anchoring Moelfre Bay. (C. in C., W.A., 1915/7 to F.O.Greenock)

My 1456/7. Convoy is further delayed. C. in C., W.A. requested to (a) sail convoy when fog permits. (b) amend programme as requisite. (c) inform all necessary authorities. (D.O.D. (H) 2344/7 to C. in C W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operating Against Vichy French.

Repatriation of French.

Your 1234 4/and my 1253/ Portuguese ship GUINE after disembarking French at Casablanca and remaining passengers at Villa Rea de Santo Antonio is available. Should arrive Gibraltar 12/1. Accommodation. Cost. Request immediate instructions. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1128/7.)

Your 1128/7. Admiralty investigating. Another possibility. You will be informed later if Portuguese ship GUINE required. Meanwhile report any reduction in high charges quoted. (D.N.D. 2005/7.)

French Convoys. (intercepted.)

Request following information regarding five French ships CHARLES PLUMMER, L'ORAGE, AVANT GARDE, JOSEPH DUHAMEL and SENATEUR DUHAMEL.
(A) Which of these ships could be manned by Free French elements among crews sufficiently for passage to U.K. with armed guards. (B) Vichy members of crews. (i) Are they still on board or have they been sent to France.
(ii) If still at Gibraltar total number (officers and men).
S. C.C.S.O.'s 1630/4/12. Report speed of LES GEMEAUX on auxiliary engine in present state of ship's bottom also probable speed and endurance with clean bottom.
S. Speed of SALLY MAERSK in present condition and whether possible to dock for bottom cleaning in near future if required. (D.E.W.D. 1230/7, to F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1657. If tenker is being escorted by French destroyer she is not to be interfered with and H.M.S. SCARBOROUGH is to proceed to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2001/7 to SCARBOROUGH.)

French warships leave Beirut.

Beirut reports that all French warships left Beirut a.m.today proceeding Northwards. They are belived to consist of light cruisers VALMY and GUEPARD two sloops, Netlayer GLEDIATEUR and four submarines. D.N.A. Athens advised. (C.O.I.S. 2243/7).

MOST SECRET.

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Excess".

Your 2350/6 re W.S.5.B, DUNCAN and all destroyers of 8th and 13th destroyer flotillas including JAGUAR have sailed for operation "EXCESS" with exception of WISHART escorting ARGUS and KENYA. WISHART is not due Gibraltar till 10/1 S.O. Force H has only eleven destroyers in company which barely meets (corrupt group) requirements. Have therefore no destroyers available for this duty. (F.O.C.N.A. 1026/7, to Admty.)

S/M's.

Estimated position of S/M's at 0800/8 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.C.N.A. 1444/7.)

Suspicious tanker off Cape Sinos.

A large suspicious tanker was sighted 1310/7 off Cape Sinos course Southerly in territorial waters. Description. Speed. Vessel cannot be identified. LOCH OSKAIG in touch but unable to overhaul. SCARBOROUGH and trawlers of Western Patrol instructed to investigate and board if encountered clear of territorial waters. (F.O.C.N.A. 1708/7.)

Escort for MONARCH OF BERMUDA and CAPETOWN CASTLE.

Cancel my 2350/6. (D.O.D.(F) 1708/7. to (F.O.C.N.A.)

S/M. depot ship for fit.

I consider it is essential that a submarine depot ship should be based at Gibraltar as soon as possible to act as depot ship for 8th S/M F for submarines on passage through Gibraltar and for S/M's on surface carrying out patrols in Western Mediterranean from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1712/7.)

My 2229/4, Freightship MATHURA sailed from Swansea 1/1. (D. of S.T. 1747/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FORSIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

BONITA.

My 1752/ re overdue Shipping, Panamanian BONITA arrived St. Michaels Azores 27/12.(806) Freetown 0752/7.)

ITAPE.
Incident.

Re. Adty. 1824/18/12/40. CARNARVON CASTLE'S report. (C. in C. S.A. C859. N/7.)

MENDOZA.
(French.)

MENDOZA loading meat. Has 990 tons on board: stated ship will sail 8/S.B.I. (B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1025/7 to R.A.S.A.D. etc.)

Sailings from Plate ports.

Delay sailings for Freetown and U.K. of ships less than eleven knots speed from p.m./7, and less than 12 knots from p.m. /8. It is intended to sail all ships available in a group about 12/1.Further instructions will be sent.
(C. in C.S.A. 1055N/7 to N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires, N.C.S.O. Monte Video.)

My 1055/ All ships available from River Plate ports are to be routed and sailed as follows. Object to keep ships in a group as far as possible through this area. Cover will be provided for group as a whole. Report number of ships likely to be available and probable dates of sailing.(C. in C. S.A.1757N/7.)

Orders to DEVONSHIRE, Convoy, W.S.5.A.

My 1247/5, DEVONSHIRE is to rendezvous with convoy at 0800/10 in position 004° 00' 010° 22'W. Convoy sails Freetown 1200/8 to position 000° 40' S 005° 30'W, speed of advance 10½ knots escorted by HAWKINS. Force K is to cover till rendezvous then proceed through H 35 H 34 I 34. FURIOUS escorted by NEPTUNE and DELHI is operating off Takoradi till 11th.(C. in C. S.A. 1115N/7. to DEVONSHIRE.)

S.S.KOLL ARUBA overdue.

Overdue shipping, Norwegian ship KOLL ARUBA departure 9/12 due Buenos Aires 29/12 has not arrived.(S. O.(1) Freetown 1204/7.)

MOST SECRET.

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

S.S. KING ARTHUR.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 0946/31/12. (SO(1) Capetown 1240B/6.)

Suspicious ship sighted by ROWANBANK.

Master of British ship ROWANBANK reports sighting suspicious ship 6 miles N.E. (M) position 023° 04' 011° 17' at 1910 G.M.T./31/12. Request Master of British ship GLENAFFARIC may be asked whether his was ship sighted.(S.O.(1) Freetown 1318/7. to S.O.(1) Colombo.)

? Raider.

U.S. ALGIC reported by W/T sighting on 30/12 in 025° 001° "Large white painted green similar to tanker surrounded by four small craft apparently submarines heading south east". This was at first identified here as Norwegian whale ship TERJE VIKEN expected here by agents, but since state that this ship anchored Clyde in damaged condition. Ship might be German whale ship UNITAS last heard of at Hamburg or possibly disguised GRAF ZEPPLIN which left Kiel between 3rd and 15th July and has not apparently been located since. I have asked Trinidad for full report on arrival of ALGIC there.(S.O.(1) Capetown 1530/7.) ? Group omitted.

Capacity of Port to handle transports.

Your 0030/6 (B). Maximum number of ships in a mixed troop transport and supply ship convoy that can be efficiently handled in 48 hours. Nine or possibly ten ships during a stay of 48 hours at Capetown. N.O. in Charge Durban is replying to para.(C) direct. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1538/7 to Adty.)

Convoy.
W.S.5.A.
bunkering.

Your 1954/30/12, One Tanker in addition to shore stocks of oil fuel will be required to assist in fuelling convoy at Durban. Request one may be detailed and name reported. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1549/7. to D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET.

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

F.A.A.
Stores.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.
A.T. 1614/6. Fleet Air Arm Stores referred to are for aircraft of FORMIDABLE and not for Trinidad.
(D.O.D.(F) 1644/7. to C. in C. S.A.)

Convoy
W.S.5A
Escort.

HAWKINS is to proceed as ordered S.O. Force "K" after Convoy W S 5A, has sailed and is to escort Convoy under orders H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE, after rendezvous on 10/1 to Durban.
SHROPSHIRE will probably relieve DEVONSHIRE near Cape, SHROPSHIRE and HAWKINS being Convoy escort to Aden.
(C. in C.S.A. 1845N/7 to HAWKINS.)

Operation
Monsoon.

A.C.N.S.(F) 2147/7 see Operations Volume.

Force K.
Sweep.

Re. Adty. 0120/6. List with positions and routes of southbound ships south of [illegible] N bound for Plate and Cape.
(D.T.[illegible]. 2231/7 to C. in C. S.A,SO Force K,R.A.S.A.D.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Aircraft Reinforcements

Chiefs of Staff No 45 to C. in C's Med and M.E., (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 1153/7) See Mediterranean Vol.

Air Report Tripoli Attacked 6/1.

Special Operational Summary. All times G.M.T. Weather conditions unsuitable Naples Taranto and Sicilian objectives. Therefore only 6 Wellingtons operated night 6/1 against Tripoli in order to allow 10 for attack night 7/1 on Naples weather permitting. Naples with very large concentration of naval and merchant shipping as reported in my "I" 12 6/1 presents priority target. Last night's attack on Tripoli lasted from 1755 to 1910. Total weight of bombs released 24,000 lbs G.P. Many sticks dropped among M/V's in centre of harbour causing explosions and cloud of smoke. Direct hit amidships on 1 large M/V followed by explosion. Probable hit on smaller cargo ship. A.A. fairly accurate, some from 2 stationary ships h lf mile north of harbour probably destroyers. (H.Q., R.A.F. Med., 0730/7)

U/B's in Gulf of Bomba

Aircraft reconnaissance report enemy submarines in anchorage in South of Gulf of Bomba, 5/1. (Capt. S.1. 0903/7, to ROVER)

Operation M.C. 4.

Provisional plan of operations. (C. in C., Med. 1157/7) See Mediterranean Volume.

Air Operations

A. 814. 7/1 H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., Operational Summary No 211 up to 1200 hrs. 7.1.41.
1. Egypt. Dusk 5/1. 4 Blenheims dropped 6,600 lbs L.G. bombs on Tobruk. Night 5th/6th Jan 2 Blenheims bombed Tobruk. Day 6/1 3 Blenheims bombed Marwuba. 3 Blenheims dropped 5,600 lbs of bombs on Derna results unobserved owing to interception by enemy fighters. 11 Blenheims attacked Tobruk some bombs falling on harbour while other while others fell on town near barracks. Single Blenheims bombed Gazela, El Adem and Derna landing grouns, results unobserved owing to cloud.

/3 Blenheims.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Air Operations-Contd.

3 Blenheims abandoned attack on Appollonia owing to interception by fighters. All aircraft returned safely from above operations. Hurricanes maintained patrols throughout day between Bahdiab and Tobruk destroying one and probably two aircraft and damaged two. Australian Gladiators patrolled over Bardia area to cover our troops against enemy air attack.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1249/7)

A. 814 7/1 X 8481. H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.
Operational Summary No 211, up to 1200 hours 7.1.41. Part 2.
Reconnaissance reported on movements on roads and tracks between Cirene and Tobruk 10 ships between 3,000 and 5,000 tons in Benghazi Harbour. 1 ship 5,000 tons escorted by 2 destroyers approaching harbour. Night 6-7/1. 8 Wellingtons dropped 25840 lbs of bombs on Tobruk hitting barracks, stores sheds and M.T. vehicle park with resulting large fires which were visible at a distance of 30 miles. Intense and accurate A.A. fire encountered. All aircraft returned safely. M.E. report that our troops have occupied El Adem and encircled Tobruk defences. 40 unserviceable aircraft abandoned by enemy captured on El Adem landing ground.

2. Greece. Day 6/1. 9 Blenheims dropped 9,900 lbs of bombs on Valona hitting large buildings south of barracks and starting a number of fires. Other bombs hit buildings near jetty. Blenheims encountered intense and accurate A.A. fire and were intercepted over target by 6 G.50's. 2 Blenheims failed to return. 2 other Blenheims damaged. 3 Blenheims despatched to attack 5 enemy destroyers reported shelling Himaba failed to locate target and returned with bombs. 1 Sunderland patrolled South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping.

3. Sudan. Day 6/1. 3 Blenheims bombed Burye details of damage being unobserved owing to poor visibility.

/4. KENYA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-

Air Operations-Contd

4. Kenya. Day 6/1. 3 Blenheims S.A.A.F. patrolled from Mombasa and endeavoured to locate our minesweepers operating between Manya Channel and Lindi. (H.Q., R.A.F.,M.E. 1257/7)

I. 15 7/1. Most Secret Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700/7. All times G.M.T. 1345 to 1355 small formation of enemy aircraft approached Island from North but turned back short of Grand Harbour. 4 Hurricanes up. No naval or military items. (H.Q.,R.A.F., M.E., 1710/7)

A 369 7/1. Daily Summary Operations 2 routine A/S patrols. 3 A/S patrols to East for H.M.Ships. Area covered Spartel to 2° West. (200 Group 1725/7)

15 inch Bombarding Ammunition

Present state of 15 inch bombarding ammunition. Request all that can be spared from U.K. may be sent at next direct opportunity. H.E. much preferred if available as some blinds have been reported with C.P.C. shell in soft sand. (C. in C., Med., 1345/6 to Admty.)

Information for OSIRIS

London Flying Boats may be patrolling to Meridian 003° West. Trawler patrolling in vicinity 036° 00' N., 005° 10' W. (Capt. S (1) 1440/7 to OSIRIS)

TRUANT

Orders (Capt. (S) 1 1901/7)

Convoy M.W. 5½

Convoy M.W. 5½ comprising H.M.S. BRECONSHIRE and SS CLAN MACAULAY sailed 1400/7 due Malta 0800/10. (N.C.S.O. Alexandria 1706/7)

Cooperation with 13th Corps

My 1145/4. Position of our own troops precluding further bombardment of Bardia after 1600/3 TERROR and APHIS returned to Alexandria. LADYBIRD and GNAT remain at Sollum. Maintenance of supplies by sea to Sollum proceeding. Prisoners ferry service restarted 4/1. Tug(s) lighter(s) and motor boat(s) taken to Sollum in CINGALESE PRICE. Bombing and torpedo bombing attacks continue but no damage to date. Supply base being established at Bardia. (C. in C., Med. 1839/7)

/North .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North African Coastal Route

Ref. memorandum S.O.O. 4 para 2 to submarines only latest information indicates North African Coastal route should be amended as follows- (Capt. (S) 1. 1911/7 to ROVER, TETRARCH)

East Indies

RANCHI to escort BATORY

Hired Transport BATORY with 400 R.W.A.F.F. Left Mombasa 0300Z/5 for Capetown speed of advance 17½ knots route (a) 010° 40' S 041° 00' E. (b) (group omitted) 00' 041° 25' (c) 034° 45' 029° 30' (d) 037° 10' 019° 20'. (ii) Proceed forthwith to join BATORY and escort her to 030° south and then resume patrol. (iii) If contact A made by dark 7th/1 proceed 17 knots along BATORY'S route to 030° south giving cover. (C. in C., E.I., 0506Z/7 to RANCHI)

Orders for CAPETOWN

CAPETOWN is to leave Trincomalee 0330Z/8 and proceed at 12 knots to position (a) 005° N., 080° E., and patrol between this position and position (b) 001° 30' N., 083° E.
(ii) CAPETOWN is to leave patrol line so as to reach position (c) 004° 10' N., 082° 20' E., at 0630Z/11 and from this position is to proceed at 15 knots on course for Trincomalee until darkness 11/1 and then return at 12 knots to patrol line passing through position. (d) 005° N., 084° E.
(iii) CAPETOWN is to arrive Colombo 1000Z/13. (C. in C., E.I., 0748Z/7)

Inquiry re Personnel Ships

G,O.C. India asks what ships with Military personnel are proceeding India during January and February. (D.S.T.D. India, 1030/7)

CERES COLOMBO

CERES is to leave Mombasa a.m./8 and proceed patrol off Kismayu. COLOMBO is to leave patrol so as to arrive Mombasa a.m. /9. (C. in C., E.I., 1040Z/7)

/Orders for....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Orders for HECTOR

HECTOR is to leave Colombo 0030Z/9 and proceed on patrol passing through position (a) 002° N., 076° 30' E., and (b) 006° 30' N 083° 30' E., and arrive at position (c) 008° 40' N., 081° 32' (?) E., at 0030Z/12.

(ii) HECTOR is then to patrol off Trincomalee and will be required to give cover to transports proceeding from Trincomalee to Colombo from 12 to 15 January. Further signal will be made giving times of departure of transports. (C. in C., E.I., 1146Z/7 to HECTOR)

M/S Group 142

Ships of M/S Group 142 are to be sailed 9/1 for Seychelles where they will replenish.
(ii) It is intended they shall subsequently proceed from Seychelles to Aden direct.
(iii) Discuss with S.O.Group and confirm passage from Seychelles to Aden can be done without refuelling or requiring water.
(C. in C., E.I., 1216Z/7 to N.O.i/c Kilindini)

Relief of DEVONSHIRE by SHROPSHIRE

Re Admty. 2326/5 (i) This will be arranged.
(ii) C. in C., S.A. is requested to signal rendezvous as soon as possible. (C. in C., E.I., 1218Z/7 to Admty.)

Re report German U-Boats and Aircraft Carrier to operate in Indian Ocean

F.O.C.R.I.N. 0710/6. Unlikely Germany could spare 500 ton U/Boats from the Atlantic Areas. 200 ton U/Boats with the armament detailed do not exist.
GRAF ZEPPELIN is believed to be in the Baltic and there is no evidence that she is yet operating.
The whole report is graded E.5. and is similar to others put about by Germans in South America in 1939.
(D.D.I.C., 2229/7)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ABERDARE
ARROW.

Adty. 1807/1. Owing to defects ships will not be able to sail till middle of February.
(C. in C. China 0405/7).

Raider.

Your 0650/23/12/40 Master reports Italian sighted in eight degrees (Corrupt Group) corresponds exactly with Raider ATLANTIS except forward ventilators closer to funnel. INGE MAERSK altered course away and stranger passed six miles distance course 225° 12 knots.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore 0750Z/7 to CinC EI)

U.S.
Mediation
between
Thailand
and Indo-
China.

Proposing a mediator
(C. in C. China 0407Z/7).

Air Bases.

Admiralty - AirMinistry Policy
(Adty 1150/7 to C. in C. China)
See Operations volume.
(Lion copy only);

TEIY
MARU.

Reported to have left ~~Koln~~ Kobe 2/1
(C.O.S. Singapore 1146Z/7)

LYEEMUN.

Your 0455/6. LYEEMUN should be requisitioned by local government under its own powers.
(D.T.D. 1956/7 to Cdre. Hong Kong).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

FORT ROYAL (French)

Following from Navy Dept. From Martinique: FORT ROYAL sailed for Speke Point a Pitre 2/1.
(N.A. Washington 1207/7).

Arrived Martinique from Pointe a Pitre 5/1
(B.N.A. Washington 1815/7).

Convoy H.X. 102.

List (S.C.N.O. Halifax N.S. 1209/7).

SKRTL ?

Your 1615/12 Norwegian SKRTL has not arrived Sydney.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1173/7).

Halifax Escort Force and N.P.

It has been approved in principle to combine the force available for duty with the Halifax Escort Force with those required for the Denmark Straits area of the Northern Patrol.

2. It is intended, therefore, to increase the strength of the Halifax Escort Force by seven A.M.C's. This should enable two to be always on patrol in the Denmark Straits. Fuelling and watering facilities will be provided at Hvalfiord.

3. Request you will report whether you anticipate any difficulties in basing and maintaining those additional ships at Halifax.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1301/7 to R.A.3.B.S.).

PORTLAND
OSORNO
ORDUNA.

My Talcahuano agent reports he thinks PORTLAND will sail shortly to draw PRINCE ROBERT from her support escort duty leaving way clear for German ship OSORNO follow ORDUNA and possibly attack.

If Chilean Navy continues escort beyond distance offered it will be necessary to offer to replenish oil consumed. ORDUNA due to sail 1600 G.M.T. January 8th. Please instruct me if Chilean Navy be requested to extend escort Northward.
(N.A. Valparaiso 2130/7 to C. in C.AWI).

/S.S. BURY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

S.S. BURY in distress.

Trinidad reports following received by British Ship KHETI in Merchant Navy Code 1500/25/12 begins. 044°N. 024° 32'W. require assistance as soon as possible to stand by me immediately ZSEL ends. KHETI arrived Trinidad today. ZSEL is secret call sign for British ship BURY.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica. 2301/7).

Australia.

21st M/S F. and 22nd M/S F.

Composition (A.C.N.B. 1524/7).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.1.1941.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

KULMERLAND.

My 0501/5/12 re. whereabouts of German ships BURGENLAND, AESSBERGER and ERMLAND. Master of KUMSANG which anchored alongside German ship at Kobe 4th January states ship named KULMERLAND present. A.N.A. now at Kobe states her form is considerably different from ship properly so named. TEIYO MARU reported to have left 2/1. (C.O.S. Singapore 11462/7).

PORTLAND
FRANKFURT

Following from Navy Department. From Santiago De Chile 4/1. PORTLAND and FRANKFURT loading concentrates, cereals and legumes for Germany at Talcahuano.
(N.A. Washington 1834/7).

PORTLAND
OSORNO.

N.A. Valparaiso 2130/7 See A.W.I.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

N.A. Buenos Aires 1025/7 (See South Atlantic).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LELLO.

Departures January 6/1 LELLO for Genoa.
(Barcelona 1728/7).

GERARCHIA.

Following from British Consul St. Vincent (Cape Verde Islands) via Sierra Leone. GERARCHIA from San Nicolau arrived St. Vincent (Cape Verde Islands) this morning. Was seen at sea without (corrupt group) flying no flag. (corrup group) grey upper works black hull. 1401/5 ends.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 2359/7 to Adty).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

EMPIRE THUNDER (Torpedoed 6/1)

Course Cape Wrath 2400 (?) at 0313 have picked up 30 survivors EMPIRE THUNDER 2 injured. Returning Oban via Stornoway. (KINGSTON ONYX 0325/7)

Return to Campdeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1108/7 to SALVONIA)

Your 1049/7. EMPIRE THUNDER sank 059° 14' N 012° 43' W., at 1045 B.S.T. 30 survivors including Master taken from 3 boats which have been cast adrift. Fourth boat sunk by torpedo 9 missing. (KINGSTON ONYX, 1210/7 to C. in C., W.A. etc.)

Overturned Boat and Raft Sighted

Patrol A/C from Stornoway reports sighting overturned boat in position 59° 47' N., 06° 25' W., and raft in position 59° 52' N 06° 15' W., at 1500. No sign of life. (A.C.O.S. 1942/7)

Submarines Reported

0917 — One small fast ship bearing 056° 5 miles course 325° suspect submarine. (Fair Isle 0917/7 to A.C.O.S. R. to V.A. (S))

0943 — Your 0943/7 (re suspected submarine) one Walrus being despatched from Sollum Voe (C. in C., Rosyth 1052/7 to A.C.O.S.)

1107 — 1 Submarine 60° 15' N., 14° 33' W., (ANEMONE 1107/7)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: 1 in area to Eastward of Cape de Verde Islands.
1 may be in about 54 N., 23 W., homeward bound.
3 in N.W. Approaches. They are probably between 54° and 56° N., and West of 13° W.

German: 1 about 37° N., 18° W., bound for Lorient.
1 about 35 N., 12 W., outward bound
1 was in 54° 50' N., 24° W at 1201/6 possibly moving northwards.
1 probably about 60° N.m 20° W.
2 or 3 more in N.W. Approaches.
They are probably to N. or N.E. of Rockall (D.D.I.C., 1239/7)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

By ANEMONE

C. in C., W.A., 1603. ANEMONE's 1107 position intended as 060° 12' N., 015° 27' W Sighted submarine on the surface possible sunk 4th attack when hydrophone effect ceased and air bubbles observed. 38th and last depth charge 1522 no contact there after. Took over from ANEMONE 1830 in position observed at 2000 as 60 27 14 55 who joined convoy then 12 miles 160° proceeding 060° 04' 009° 30' thence to separate otherwise unescorted 19 ships not present CAPE NELSON, EASTERN STAR, TENERIFFE. Trawler lost or unable to join me before dark given data to join convoy. Am investigating many streaks thin or much dispersed oil to windward no other evidence night and gusty visibility maximum asdic conditions perfect. Intend searching until 1107/8. (LA MALOUINE 2359/7)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Western Channel Patrol.

KASHMIR and JERSEY last night patrolled between the Start and the Lizard, to cover shipping in the Channel.

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. CLYTONEUS (6278 tons) was bombed this forenoon in the N.W. Approaches and survivors state she was sunk.

Mining.

Operations. P.W.l.

C.in C. Nore reported this operation completed at 1440 today (minelaying in Straits of Dover by M.T.B's).
It is considered the operation was unobserved.

B.S.48.

Capt. D~~/S.~~20 reported this operation completed at 1601 today (minelaying in E. Coast War Channel).

Z.M.E.12.

ADVENTURE laid mines at the entrance to St. George's Channel before midnight 8/9.

STRATHEARN

Trinity House Vessel STRATHEARN was blown up today by a mine in the Thames Estuary. She was not in the swept channel.

One mine was exploded off Spurn Point.

Mediterranean.

Sunderlands patrolled the Libyan coast and south eastern Ionion Sea for enemy shipping today.

Attack on Naples.

Wellington bombers from Malta attacked Naples this evening. One stick of bombs was seen to drop on or very near the stern of LITTORIO battleship and others on port in stations, among a group of large merchant ships,and the railway station.
(Note. Photographic R.C. of Naples 10/1 showed a ZARA cruiser where LITTORIO was lying 8/1, and no battleships were seen.)

Shipping in Palermo harbour was also attacked.

/ Last night ..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Last night, one Wellington bombed Benghazi harbour.

East Indies.

D/F bearings indicate the possibility of a German surface unit being at Mogadishu. No shipping was seen there on 5/1, but CHRES will reconnoitre on 10/1.

MOST SECRET.

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

U.P. Weapons in Yantlet Channel, against Minelaying A/C.

Adty. 1856/22 and Nore 7633/28S. T./40 of 25/12/40. In light of above Letter agree that proposal is impracticable. (D. of L.D. 0033/8 to C. in C. Nore.)

Meeting with Prime Minister 10/1.

Asking him or his representative to attend Preliminary Meeting of Naval C's in C. at Adty. at 1600/9. (1st. S.L. 1213/8 to A.C.C. in C.Coastal Command.) C. in C.C.C. will attend in person.(H.C.C.C.1645/8 to 1st. S.L.)

KREBUS and Hatston.

Adty. 1340/5. If no objection to awaiting suitable weather it will not be necessary for KREBUS to proceed to Scapa; and, if this approved, request Adty. 2058/6 ordering Swordfish A/C to Hatston may be cancelled. (C. in C. Nore 1230/8 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE .

At 1130/8. (D.C.1207/8.) At 2330/8. (D.C. 2350/8.)

Movements.

Nore Command. Ships out of Action.

My 0710/5. Delete JACKAL and BROADWAY. (C. in C. Nore 0802/8.)

RAMILLIES, KELVIN, PUNJABI, KIPLING.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1020/8.)

VETERAN, WOLVERINE DEPTFORD.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1325/8.)

/SALOPIAN.....

MOST SECRET.

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

SALOPIAN, DERBYSHIRE CILICIA, WOLFE.	SALOPIAN and DERBYSHIRE leave Patrol for Clyde AM/11 to R/V with CILICIA and WOLFE at 1100/16 in 60° 40' N. 15°W. Route. (F.O.C.N.P. 1340/8 to Western Patrol.)
Northern Patrol.	Trawler Lines tonight. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.C.S. 1445/8.)
HOOD RODNEY.	C. in C. Rosyth's 1737/7. B.C. One is requested to sail HOOD for Rosyth accordingly. R.A.B. is requested to provide screen of four destroyers for HOOD. The same destroyers to form screen for RODNEY sailing from Rosyth for Scapa as ordered by C. in C. Rosyth. (C. in C. H.F. 1633/8 to B.C.I.)
ARETHUSA.	Arrived Scapa from Oban.(A.C.C.S.2042/8.)
CHITRAL, LETITIA.	At 2330/10 in 58° 48' N. 7° W., steering 117° at 13 knots. F.O.C.N.P. please pass to 18th Group. (CHITRAL 2316/8 to C. in C. W.A.)
Proposed Operation.	Proposed communication and Meteorological arrangements. (A.C.N.S.H.0231/8 to F.O.I.C Iceland.) See Operations Volume.
Western Channel. Patrol.	Arrived Plymouth 1043/7 KASHMIR, JUPITER. Sailed Plymouth 2039/7 KASHMIR, JERSEY. (C. in C. W.A. 0739/8.)
Dover. Enemy Minelaying probably frustrated.	There are indications that Enemy may have intended to carry out a Minelaying Operation off Dover early this morning; but E-boat R/C earlier in night reported presence of our M.T.B.'s and operation did not develop. (V.A. Dover 1032/8.)
R.Y.A.	3 Motor Launches patrolling tonight 5 miles Eastwards of Swept Channel between 56 and 54.E. Buoys. (C. in C. Nore 1619/8 Motor Launches 106, 108, 110 (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2029/8.)

/MIDDLE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

G. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

MIDDLE EAST LANDINGS.

C. in C. Home 1704/8. Next suitable dates at Dover are 19th to 25rd. January inclusive. (V.A.Dover 1648/8 to C. in C. Home.)

Operation "Dudelo".

Mr. Mallet (Stockholm) 1815/8. See Operations Volume.

Submarines.

TAKU.

Your 2012/7. Will be dry-docked at Troon about 2100 today.(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0257/8 to V.A.S.) Arrived Troon (F.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1915/8.)

G. 21.

Leave Patrol 1800/10. Route to Cap A. (S.O. 1151/8.)

SEVERN.

Leaves Clyde 1800/9 for Halifax. Route. (D.O.D.H.1157/8.)

TRIDENT.

Following Bombing Restrictions arranged and requested for you. (S.S. 1647/8 to TRIDENT.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/9. (V.A.S. 1733/8.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Ordered today: UMST, SYRTIS, STAND, HORNLI, IPOP Dusk. (C. in C. Rosyth 0816/8.) Patrol HORNLI cancelled today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1316/8.) My 0002/1. Add Patrol FUGLE. Details. When flown will be included in daily Signal. (C. in C. Rosyth 2236/8.)

Haugesund Area.

Propose sending 4 Skuas at 1030 to attack shipping in Haugesund Area. (Hatston 0920/8 to A.C.C.S.) Approved. (A.C.C.S.0946/8.) 4 Skuas left (Hatston 1040/8.) All A/C returned Hatston without attacking. Propose to repeat when weather favourable.(Hatston 1355/8.) Your 1355/8. Second paragraph approved. (A.C.C.S.1751/8 to Hatston.)

/Brest.....

MOST SECRET.

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Brest. 88 and 89 and 217 Sqdns., to attack at dawn/9 the Cruiser in dry-dock at Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1155/8 and 1139/8.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Unknown Ship bombed.
? CLYTONEUS.
(See 9/1.) S.O.S. in 56° N. 14° W. (Valentia Radio 0944/8.) Detach one ship to assist Unknown Ship bombed. Tugs THAMES and SEAMAN being sailed. (C. in C. W.A. 1107/8 to ABERDEEN.) Sailed THAMES and SEAMAN from Campbeltown at 1140 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1155/8.)

Faroes. German aircraft probably Heinkel 8 flew high over various parts of Faeroes between 1200 and 1330 today. Last seen flying Westward.(N.O.I.C. Faroes 1617/8 to A.C.O.S.)

Signal fired by Enemy A/C. S.O.T.L.D.F. reports that Enemy Aircraft on being engaged by ARISTOCRAT near East Spile buoy at 1455/7 fired a Group of five red stars on altering course away from line of fire. (C. in C. Nore 1621/8 to Adty.)

Mining.

Peterhead Area Search of War Channel. My 1800/7/1. Cancel then return to Peterhead. On completion of search East side of War Channel intend 19th Group to turn and search West side of N.C. ahead of W.N.65. to Crude N. Scours expected time of arrival 0030/9 then return to Peterhead. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1140/8 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

QADRA. H.M. Consul, Thorshaven 1838/6 to Min. of Shipping. Report where ship was mined. (D.T.D. 1203/8 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.) In 62° 21' N. 7° 7' W. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1943/8 to Adty.)

/P.W.1.....

MOST SECRET.

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

P.W.1.
P.W.2.
P.W.3.

Operation P. W. one completed. Position No ships seen. V4 considers operation was unobserved. Your 1231/6 - Para. 2. These operations will be carried out as soon as practicable. They will be known as P.W.2 and P.W. 3 respectively.(C. in C. Nore 1440/8.)

Harwich Area, Searches.

S.Z.3. 117 searched by 5 F M/S covering a front of 22 cables negative result. Intend sailing 5 F M/S at 0830/12 to search area extending one mile either side of line from 51° 48.3'N 1° 40.8' E to 51° 49' N 1° 50.5'. Further signal will be made.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1453/8.)

STRATHEARN.

N.O. i/c Brightlingsea reports:- At 1320 today, Trinity House Vessel STRATHEARN was blown up by mine, but not in Swept Channel in vicinity of Knoll Buoy. Five seriously injured nine slightly, survivors landed at Brightlingsea. Search for other survivors still being made. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1521/8.) Position about 51° 45' 12" N. 1° 10' 6"E. 6 Dead, 7 seriously injured, 11 slightly. All officers missing except 2nd Engineer. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1727/8.)

Kinnaird Head to Duncansby.

Head Sweep.

Commencing dusk/11 available ships of 5th M S F are to carry out the following searching sweeps.
(1) Kinnairds Head to Duncansby Head eastward of dividing line A Z 787 and of centre line of Q Z S 160.
(2) Duncansby Head to Kinnairds Head westward of dividing line A Z 787 and of centre line of Q Z S 160.
Sweeps are to be completed off Kinnairds Head by dark/12, when ships are to return to Aberdeen.(C. in C. Rosyth 1541/8.)

/B.3.43.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

R.3.43. Completed. (Capt. D.30. 1601/8.)

Mine towed by HOOD. Your 1757/7. Marks imply British Mine adrift from S.N.3. Request verification and fuller description. (R.A.N.L. 1808/8 to A.C.O.S.)

Spurn Point. At 0951/8 one Mine exploded by M/S Trawler in 123° Spurn Point Lighthouse 2.9 miles. (F.O.Humber 1845/8.)

E.N.E.12. Operation completed. (ADVENTURE 2352/8.)

Shipping & Convoys.

E.N. and O.B. Convoys. Detachment of Ships to Loch Ewe. A.N. 2838/4, para. 1. Commodores of E.N. Convoys are to be instructed that ships for O.B. Convoys are not to be detached to Loch Ewe unless a margin of 24 hours is assured between the Time of Arrival and the time of R/V with the O.B. Convoy bound through the Minches. (D.T.D. 0056/8.)

Commodores. Re. appointing Commodore or Vice-Commodore in Convoys and whenever 2 or more merchant ships sail in company. (D.T.D. 1938/8.)

COASTAL CONVOYS C.W.22. Southend arrival and departure for Dover 8/1 with C.W.22 H.M.T. NETSUKIS (H.C.S.O. Thames 1145/8.)

Southend Departure 8/1 with C.W.22 for Ramsgate H.M.D. LORD NORMEY. For Dover H.M.T. BROCK. (H.C.S.O. Thames 1146/8 to Adty.)

F.S.81. Humber 8/1 departure. H.M.T. AGATE with H.M.T's KINGSTON OLIVINE and LORD PLENDER in company at 0800 to join F.S.81. thence to Harwich. (F.O.Humber 0850/8.)

/Your 0340. Proceed.....

MOST SECRET.

3. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. Contd.

Your 0640, Proceed to join F.S.01 due Sheringham Light float 1630 and form additional escort as far as Aldeburgh Light float thence to Harwich by Q Z F 7.(C. in C. Nore 1204/8 to SOUTHDOWN.)

F.N.78. F.N.78 due Outer Dowsing 0430/9.
F.N.79. F.N.79 leaves Sheerness 0900/9.
F.S.01. F.S.01 due Aldeburgh 0600/9.
F.S.02. F.S.02 due Aldeburgh 0800/9.
C.W.02. C.W.02 due North Goodwin 1715/8.
(C. in C. Nore 1200/8.)

F.S.04. GUILLEMOT after escorting H 44 to Blyth is to proceed to T.2 Buoy Tyne preparatory to acting as additional escort to F S 04 with special regard to S.S. CHANNEL FIGHTER whose safe passage to Sheerness is to be GUILLEMOT'S first consideration. (C. in C. Rosyth 1220/8.)

W.N.65. Scapa departure 0940 FLEETWOOD to escort convoy W.N.65. (A.C.O.S.1011/8.)

Scapa, departure 1335/8, CURACOA for escort convoy W N 65. (A.C.O.S. 1431/8.)

E.N.54. SLO. Act as additional A/A escort to E N 54 sailing at 2230/9 after passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S.

W.N.67. is requested to sail JASON to join W N 67 due Duncansby Head 1245/11. Code word for E N 54 Mission and W N 67 Rusty.(C. in C. Rosyth 1540/8 to JASON).

F.S.03. F.S.03 off the Tees 2000/8.
W.N.65 W.N.65 54° 12' N. 02° 20' W. 2000/8.
E.N.53. E.N.53 57° 58' N 02° 38' W. 2000/8.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1606/8.)

/W.N.66.....

MOST SECRET.

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

W. N. 66. — W N 66 cancel my 1657/4. W N Convoys now reverting to old route as used previous to W N 65. Amended pre-sailing telegram for W N 66 follow. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1659/7.)

F. N. 79. — My 2155/3 and 0248/8. Cancel F.N.79.

F. N. 80. — Amend escorts for F.N.80 to read WESTON, VIMIERA, VERSATILE and GARTH. My 1147/7 is cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 1644/8.)

C.B.273. — Route (D.T.D. 1429/8.)

OCEAN CONVOYS.

O. G. 49. — Sailed at 0435/8. Escorts GEORGETOWN, ANTELOPE, PICOTEE, LADY MADELEINE, ARAB. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0455/8.)

Sailed PEGASUS to rendezvous with O.G.49. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0732/8.)

Sailed GEORGETOWN to join O G 49. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1034/8.)

C. B.272. — Your 1210/7. As PEGASUS is with O G 49, request you will order CHISPIN to sail with O B 272. (C. in C. W.A. 1359/8 to F.O.C.N.F.)

H.X.99. — 751. After crossing 057° 00' N. H X 99 steer to amended splitting position 056° 30' N 008° 00' thence by route previously ordered. Pass to trawlers in company by V/S. (C. in C. W.A.1158/8.)

Estimated at 2000/8. H.X.99 056° 46' N 009° 20' W. (A.C.O.S. 1515/8.)

C.B. 271. — 1000/8 sailed VANQUISHER for A/S practice then to escort O.B.271. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1939/8.) H.Y.48. Route (D.T.D. 1608/8.) S.C.19. Advance sailing telegram (S.N.O. Halifax 1445/8.)

/Escort.....

MOST SECRET.

6. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

Escort Groups Order of Sailing.

Order of sailing of escort groups:-
6th O B 274 Jan.14th meet S L 61.
2nd O G 50 Jan.16th meet H G 50. and S L S 61.
7th O B 275 Jan.18th meet H X 103.
4th O B 276 Jan 20th meet S C 19.
8th O B 277 Jan 22nd meet H X 104.
1st O B 278 Jan 24th meet S L 62.
5th no out convoy Jan 24th meet H X 103.
3rd. O.G. 51 Jan. 26th meet H.G.51 and S. L. S. 62.
6th O B 279 Jan. 28th not in convoy.
(2) Special orders will be given for 8th escort groups meeting H X 104.
(C. in C. W.A. 1535/8.)

TROOP CONVOYS.
W. S. 5.B.

NAIAD sailed 0100/8 for Hoelfre. E.T.A. 1200/8 depending visibility.
(C.S.15. 0105/8.)

Adjust your speed so as to arrive Bell and Light Float during daylight. Keeping within one cable north of Dan Buoy laid on S.Z.S.129. Speed must not exceed 9 knots inside 30 fathom line and ships must not anchor within that area and when in convoy to be in line ahead 1 mile apart before crossing 30 fathom line. Attention is called to 952 A.I. Ships unable to enter harbour in daylight are to anchor at Hoelfre. All lights in channel are extinguished. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0829/8 to VETERAN.)

HIGHLANDER return to Liverpool forthwith to refuel and rejoin convoy A.N./9, when WITHERINGTON is to proceed Londonderry for fuel and R/V as by orders to be issued later. HARVESTER is to be detached to refuel at Londonderry after rendezvous with Clyde section. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1100/8.)

Intend sailing Liverpool section of W.S. 5.B escorted by NAIAD, AUSTRALIA, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER from Hoelfre Bay 1630/9 speed 10 knots, to R/V with Belfast and Clyde sections at 0930/10 in position 270° Overnay 6 miles thence in accordance with Admiralty 2340/31 and 1012/7. Speed of advance 13½ knots. N.O.i/c. Belfast and F.O.i/c Greenock are requested to comply accordingly. WITHERINGTON will rendezvous from Lough

Foyle.....

MOST SECRET.

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.
Foyle and HARVESTER will be detached from rendezvous to refuel and rejoin convoy.(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1215/8.)

Adty. 2344/7 and F.O.I.C. Greenock 0809/8. N.O.I.C. Liverpool requested to arrange R/V for Belfast and Clyde ships of W.S.5.B. with those from Liverpool at 0930/10. N.O.I.C. Belfast and N.O.I.C. Greenock are to sail their ships accordingly.

(II) F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to report as early as practicable on 9/1 January whether Clyde portion will be able to sail.(C. in C. W.A. 1247/8.)

Your 1301/8. VANQUISHER proceed forthwith to Moelfre Bay for A/S cover with W.S five B. HIGHLANDER enter harbour daylight/9 to refuel and rejoin convoy. When W S five B sails VANQUISHER proceed in accordance with previous orders. HARVESTER refuel as in my 1215/8. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1618/8 to 15th C.S.)

Request Fighter protection for W S 5 B 1630/9 until dark 0930/10 to limit range. Route. speed. Code word "Olive". (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1630/8 to H.Q.F.C.)

Amended R.V. for W S 5 B is 0930/10, 270° Overay 6 miles. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1707/8 to WITHERINGTON.)

Request fighter protection for Clyde portion W S 5 B. Details (F.O.Greenock 1730/8 to H.Q.F.C.)

W S 5 B ships at Clyde anchorage ready.

J. 19, 347 Influenza cases, 7 mumps but 20 doctors and 20 nurses on board. (F.S.T.O. Clyde 2050/8 to D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET.

S. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

MIRAGE. Sailed H.M.T. ROCHE DONNE towing s.s. MIRAGE. (P.O.I.C. Falmouth 1040/8. to C. in C. W.A.) Arrived. (C. in C. W.A. 1809/8.)

CAPRICORNUS. Salvage attempts abandoned. Air protection need no longer be provided. (D.D. of Salvage 1851/8.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French Convoy.

Four French armed tugs, RHINOCERUS, TEMACE, CETEMIN and one unidentified tug passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1640/7, escorting French M.V's ARCTURUS, 2532 tons, GUILVINEC, 3222 tons, TOURS, 4158 tons, and OUED SEBOU II, 2448 tons. At 1745/7, a French destroyer made rendezvous off Gibraltar with small French cargo ships which she escorted southward (D.O.R., 9/1, S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1019/8).

C. PLUMIER
J. THAMEL
SENATEUR

French Ships CHARLES PLUMIER JOSEPH THAMEL SENATEUR will be sailing in H.G. 50. at 1330/8. Presume possibility of attempt by superior French force from Casablanca to rescue these ships has been considered observing only two Corvettes are available as convoy escort. There are indications French Air reconnaissance to westward of Straits of Gibraltar. Can ships concerned be seized before sailing and fly British colours. (F.O.C.N.A. 1012/8 to Adty.)

Your 1012/8. Ships can not be seized before sailing. They are to remain at Gibraltar and await a proper escort. (V.C.N.S. 1200/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Repatriation of French.

Your 2005/7 Cost of passage in S.S. GUINE (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1722/8 to Admty.)

Policy towards Vichy French Ships.

V.C.N.S. 2206/8 to C.in C. S.A. See operations Volume.

North Atlantic.

Tanker sighted off Cape Sinos at 1310/7.

My 1708/7. P.c. and s. of tanker was 230 Cape St. Vincent 16 225° 12 knots at 1930/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 0820/8).

S/M's.

Positions at 0800/9 and movements for the following 24 hours. (F.O.C.N.A. 1210/8).

ANTE-MATKOVIC.

Your 2002/7. Bunkers and stores were denied to Yugo Slavian ANTE)MATKOVIC. Ship had sufficient bunkers to proceed to Lisbon. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1259/8 to Adty.)

S/M's reported.

N.A. Lisbon T.H.I. 1400/8, and 1613/8 see U-boat campaign.

/ Convoy H.G. 50. ..

MOST SECRET.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoy H.G.50. — Departures Gibraltar 1430/8 JONQUIL GERANIUM escorting H.G.50 until dark 12/1. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1446/8.)

C. FLUMIER
J. DUHAMEL
S. DUHAMEL
L'ORAGE — Reply to Adty. 1220/7 asking for information re these ships (V.A.C.N.A. 2116/8).

South Atlantic.

SOUTHERN PRINCESS Raider report. — Raider report from SOUTHERN PRINCESS Report corrupt group. (CANTON 0925N/8).

S.S. DEVON. — Overdue shipping my 1125/4 DEVON arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0925B/8.)

Force K
Convoy W.S.5A. — Force K is to leave Freetown after convoy WS 5A on 8/1 and together with HAWKINS act as Ocean escort until DEVONSHIRE joins 0800/10 January in position 004° 00' N. 010° 22' W. Force K is then to leave convoy and proceed to search as required through H 35 B and C, I 35 A, I 34 thence to K 33 to arrive centre of K 33 about 19/1. Group of Merchant ships will pass this area about same date see my 1757/7, Group of ships will continue as routed till 21/1 in absence of other information or instructions you should operate in vicinity of Group until required to leave to fuel at St. Helena. Instructions for further movements will be sent later.
(C.in C. S.A. 0935N/8 to S.O. Force K).

Departure 1400/8 Force 'K' and HAWKINS with convoy W.S.5A; local escort VELOX VIDETTE MILFORD BRIDGEWATER ASPHODEL and CALENDULA. Force 'K' proceeding on patrol on 10th after rendezvous with DEVONSHIRE.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1801N/8).

Routeing of shipping. — My 2231/26/12. Cancel para. 2 and substitute; all merchant vessels sailed independently from South Atlantic ports to U.K. direct are to be routed eastward of position 40° N. (?33°) W. and westward of line joining positions (i) western extremity Cape Verde Island (ii) 40° N. 19° W. (iii) 50° N. 25 W. (iv) 56 N. 25 W.

Ships are to keep out of sight of land when passing Cape Verde Island and when near or passing through Azores ships are to cross meridian 25° W. between latitudes 56° and 59° 30' N. and may pass either north of south of Rockall outside 70 miles distant. Great care must be taken not to establish any focal points, particularly vicinity 56° N. 25° W. (C.in C. S.A. 09??/8).

/ Expansion of N.A.F. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.1.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Expansion of R.A.F.	Commander Sierra Leone Area 1020/8 to W.O.
Basegrams.	C.in C. S.A. 1122/8.
Italian a/c.	Italian aeroplane left here Jan. 5 without passengers loaded with gasoline passenger seats removed and special gasoline tanks installed in replacement. (V-C. Natal 1059/8.)
S.S. KOLL (Norwegian)	Arrived Buenos Aires 6/1 (S.O.(I) Freetown 1202/8).
Use of Walvis Bay as bunkering station.	Following from D. of S.T. Reference you 1821/30 and S.N.O. Simonstown's 1702/24 instructions have been sent to M. of S. representative Capetown to arrange at once for selected ships to proceed Walvis Bay not exceeding two ships a day and taking about 200 tons each. Instructions as to ice fresh meat etc. have also been issued. (D. of S.T. 1311/8 to C.in C. S.A.).
CARAIBE Ships visiting Mozambique	Your 0740/6. (ii) Information about CARAIBE is incorrect. This ship visited Mozambique 10/11 and departed 12/11. She has not visited Mozambique or any Portuguese East African port since nor has any other French ship. No neutral ship has sailed from Portuguese East African or Union port for Madagascar or Reunion since voyage of Swedish ship GLIMMAREN from Lourenco Marques 29/9 to Fort Dauphin. Information from Cheser Mauritius indicates extremely unlikely any other neutral ship has visited Madagascar from any port. (iii) Have no information of any neutral ship intending to visit these islands. (N.O.i/c Simonstown 1424Z/8, to C.in C. E.I.)
Convoy W.S.5A.	Sailing telegram one convoy W.S.5A (9) names of ships in cruising order. (10) troops and stores (11) all ships to proceed along standard route in the event of separation (12) during night. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1518/8).
S.S. WILLIAM STRACHAN	Overdue shipping. Norwegian WILLIAM STRACHAN due Capetown 4/1 from Abadan not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1631B/8).
Handling of personnel ships.	At Durban. Reply to Adty. 0040/6. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1701/8).

/ Suspicious tanker ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Suspicious tanker sighted 4/1.

Further to my 1615/4. When suspicious Tanker parted from NUELOI ANDALUSIA former increased to at least 17 knots.
I consider it unlikely this vessel was Panamanian Tanker PETER NURLL as she was painted all grey and lacked Panamanian flag and name on side which is invariable custom. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1755/8.)

Southbound ships crossing 20° N. for Plate and Cape.

Names, Speed, Approximate noon position 9/1, Route. (D.T.D. 1817/8).

Convoy S.L.S.62.

Sailing Telegram 1 Convoy S.L. S 62. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1843/8).

ASTURIAS, orders.

Remain in L 31 and operate against French ships leaving Plate. (R.A.S.A.D. 1911Z/8).

DELHI, orders.

Your 1136/8. Proceed to Freetown after fuelling at Lagos unless otherwise required by H.M.S. FURIOUS. (C.in C. S.A. 2005W/8).

Sweep by CUMBERLAND NEWCASTLE.

Your 2045W/8. Intend to employ CUMBERLAND and NEWCASTLE on this sweep.
Owing to the absence of QUEEN OF BERMUDA, it will be necessary either (a) to uncover Rio de Janeiro focal area between January 11th - January 18th or (b) to abandon watch for French ships leaving Buenos Aires. In view of Admiralty 1928/21/12/40 consider (a) must be accepted. Intend cruisers to remain concentrated in L 31 for the present. NEWCASTLE fuelling about 12/1 before sweep starts.
ASTURIAS will remain in L 31 to intercept French ships. (R.A.S.A.D. 2043Z/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.1.1941
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Publication of sinkings of Italian Submarines.	Complaint (C.O.I.S. Alexandria 0942/8).
Mines for Greece.	Admty's 2000/2 RORQUAL cannot be made available for this duty. (ii) Mines from Malta cannot be transported in assemble state and no personnel can be spared to send to Greece to prepare these mines. (iii) Consider it improbable that Italian submarines will attempt to dive under minefield in North Channel to Corfu. (iv) In view of above consider further minelaying operations in this area should be suspended for the present (v) (?if possible) a Mine Depot will be established in Eastern Mediterranean in about three months. (C. in C. Med 1047/8 to B.N.A. Athens).
Mines off Tobruk.	Asking for information re sweeping mines laid by A/c off Mersa Tobruk (C. in C. Med 1057/8).
Mersa Tobruk Mines.	10 cucumbers have been laid in approaches to Mersa Tobruk vide Q.B. 20. There is no evidence that any of these have exploded. If Mersa Tobruk falls intend to sweep Channel through mine field using ARTHUR CAVANUGH and MILFORD COUNTESS with double A.X. Request any information which may have been gained from previous experience of sweeping these mines may be signalled. (C. in C. Med. 1057/8 to Admty).

/Air.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Air Operations

A. 816 8/1. Secret. H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. Operational Summary No. 212 up to 1200 hours 8/1/1941.
Egypt 7/1. No bombing operations owing to bad weather. Our fighters patrolled over Tobruk area but encountered no enemy aircraft. One Sunderland patrolled Libyan coast for enemy shipping. Reconnaissances reported no movements between Bomba and Tobruk. Unconfirmed report states Italians have abandoned Gazala leaving 23 S.79's and 12 CR.42's burned out on 2 landing grounds. G.H.Q.M.E. report no change at Tobruk.
3. Sudan. Night 6/7 Jan. A/c's dropped 7000 lbs of bombs on submarine base Massawa. Bombs fell near submarine moorings but damage unobserved. All aircraft returned safely from above operations.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1202/8)

Malta Air Report.

1.16 8/1. Most Secret. Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 hours 8/1. Cagliari, Trapani. Naples, Messina. Naples 1 Littorio battleship 2 Cavour battleships 2 auxiliaries large number of M/V's ranging from 1000 tons to 12000 tons uncounted. No A.A. Photos spoilt by jamming shutter. Messina 3 cruisers 3 destroyers. No A.A. Taranto 1 damaged Cavour battleship M/V's. 4 cruisers 2 destroyers 2 T.B's Recco. did not cover dry dock. Photos. unsuccessful. Recco. Western Ionian Sea returned 0616 engine trouble. Enemy aircraft approached 3 time to within 35 miles north of Malta to-day. Hurricanes went up enemy turned back each time. As result recco. Naples 10 Wellingtons despatched to attack to-night. Local weather cloudy. No naval or military items.
(H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. 1730/').

/UPRIGHT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

UPRIGHT. movements

My 2211/3 (22213/3 intended) UPRIGHT will leave Malta at 1715 (Z-1)/8 through position 033°35'N. 013° 00'E. (V.A. Malta 1647/8 to REGENT).

Air Reinforcements.

M.A. Athens 1910/8 see Mediterranean Vol.

PATRIA. (sabotage)

Your report P.T. 2993 of 2/12 on sinking of PATRIA by sabotage. Prisoners of illegal immigrants are not to be accommodated in ships in Palestine ports unless you are satisfied that proper precautions have been taken to prevent sabotage.
(C. in C. Med. 2029/8 to N.O.I/C Palestine Ports).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.1.41.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy S.W.4B.

Re use of ships for conveying prisoners. Loading. Docking.
(D. of S.T. 2043/8 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

STIRLING CASTLE.

Your 0730/4 confirmed STIRLING CASTLE should proceed to Durban for drydocking and repairs and loading homeward cargo.
(D. of S.T. 0150/8 to S.N.O. Red Sea Force).

BARBETTE.
BARNET.

Bombay departures 0900Z/8 Boom Defence Vessels BARBETTE and BARNET for Kuryan Muryan Bay.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0901Z/8).

SHROPSHIRE. orders.

SHROPSHIRE is to leave Durban p.m./10 and proceed to position (a) 030° S. 033° E. and then patrol at 15 knots between position (a) and position (b) 022° 30'S. 039° 30'E.
(C. in C. E.I. 1118Z/8).

RANCHI. orders.

My 0506/7. On arriving 030° S. resume patrol. Leave patrol so as to arrive Durban A.M./11. Speed 15 knots throughout.
(C. in C. E.I. 1120Z/8).

KANIMBLA. to intercept SINKIANG.

My 1334/6 (i) KANIMBLA is now to arrive Mauritius P.M./16 (ii) French ship SIKIANG from Saigon via Sunda Strait is expected to arrive Renunion 15 or 16/1 if met she is to be taken to Mauritius for examination (iii) on arrival position (c) patrol in area until 0600Z/13 and then adjust speed and movements to endeavour to intercet SIKIANG subject to arriving Mauritius P.M./16 (iv). normal speed while cruising and on patrol should not be less that 15 knots.
(C. in C. E.I. 1122Z/8 to KANIMBLA.).

/Raider.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Raider reported at Mogadishu.

D/F bearings obtained from MAURITIUS at 1457/1, 1423/4, 1534/4, 1457/7, 1506/7, 1511/7 and 1525/7 all G.M.T. indicate possibility of German surface unit at Mogadishu.
(D.D.I.C. 1129/8 to C. in C. E.I. C.O.I.S. Singapore).

Bombing of Massawa.

Night 6/7 See Mediterranean.

Raider reported at Mogadishu.

Your 1129/8. No shipping seen at Mogadishu 5/1. CERES will reconnoitre Mogadishu p.m./10.
(C. in C. E.I. 1708Z/8 to Adty).

China.

Transfer of French Ships to Panamanian Flag.

French Shipping interests propose to transfer a number of their ships now at Saigon to Panamanian flag. French owners fear their vessels may be seized by Japanese if further trouble occurs in Indo-China. Attitude of H.M.G.
(Cdre. Hong Kong 0309Z/8).

Japanese Attitude.

Towards British S.M.O.
(N.L.O. Shanghai 0939Z/8).

ABERDARE. ARROW.

Your 0405/7 report the nature of defects which delay sailings.
(D.M.S. 1428 to C. in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Escort of ORDUNA.

Your 2130/7 (on sailing of German PORTLAND) Chilean Navy is not to be asked to extend escort. If offer to do so is made spontaneously it is to be accepted.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 0111/8 to N.A.Valparais

Submarine sighted 1400/4.

Collector of customs Cayman Brac, reports that three fisherman sighted Submarine 1400/4 near Jackson on North coast of Little Cayman Hull appeared grey B ( ).
(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 0907/8).

ORDUNA sailed from Valparaiso 1600 G.M.T./8 for Antefagasta due Jan.10th escorted by Chilean destroyer HYATT until dark. Maximum speed 13 knots owing to damaged propeller.
(S.O.(I) Callao 1332/8).

Suspicious ships off Alaska.

Following received from Navy Department. Scotch Cap Lighthouse Unimak Island Alask reported via coastguard on 6/1 steamer nationality unknown and with no flag heading for Bering Sea. Description.
(B.N.A. Washington 0955/8).

Suspected Raider reported.

Following received from Navy Department. At 2100/22/12 in position 25° 40'N. 84° 55'W. Master of S.S. TYDOLGAS sighted ship ~20,000 tons (description) proceeding on a course towards Cuban coast.
Master who is reserve Naval Officer, considered ship to be foreign raider of the auxiliary type.
(N.A. Washington 1001/8).

/LACONIA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

LACONIA. orders. Convoy S.C.18.

You should leave Convoy S.C.18 about 36 hours before arrival at r/v. Return route to Halifax is to pass close southward of position 043° 30'N. 052° 00'W. to give as much cover as possible to independent westbound shipping.
(R.A.3 1039/7 to LACONIA).

S.C.19. Bases for U.S.

Advance sailing telegram
(S.N.O. Halifax 1445/8).
V.C.N.S. 1156/8.

Halifax Escort Force and N.P.

Your 1301/7 only difficulty foreseen is over making good defects and re-fitting additional ships. Already A.M.C.'s have to wait for urgent defects to be made good and st present 29 merchant ships are held up in Halifax for repairs. Canadian authorities do not consider situation likely to improve even on re opening Gulf of St. Lawrence prts due to new construction commitment. Absorbtion of labour at St. John N.B. by refit of a capital ship would naturally aggravate existing state of affairs. It is therefore essential ships sent should not be in need of early refit.
(F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1532/8 to Adty).

Australia.

Your 1331/29/12 and 0312/3 total requirement for U.S.9. now appears to be (Details) re ships.
(D. of S.T. 1242/8 to A.C.N.B.).

Fremantle defence.

A/T Defence type E two completed Fremantle.
(A.C.N.B. 1256Z/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PORTLAND.

My 1248/2 loading of German ships delayed owing to non arrival of cargo. PRINCE ROBERT. informed. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 0847/8).

SALZBURG.

Istanbul 7/1 arrival Roumanian (TRANSILVANIA) Departure German (SALZBURG) Braila.
(Galata 1218/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SHAKESPEAR
Sunk 5/1.

Ref. I.D. Form S.A. (1) SHAKESPEAR (3) 0930/5 018° 05'N. 021° 10'W. (5)Submarine towed survivors to Sal Island (6) On surface. (7) Ship sunk by Gunfire.

From preliminary investigation it appears SHAKESPEAR fought a very gallant action for nearly two hours until she received a direct hit on her gun. Two of submarine's crew believed to have been killed and others wounded.
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 1850/8).

EMPIRE THUNDER.
(Sunk 6/1)

Following received begins:- A.C.O.S. Repeated S.O.N.T. From N.O. i/c Stornoway. Arrival/8, KINGSTON ONYX with survivors 0623/8.
(A.C.O.S. 1139/8).

Submarines Reported.

0115.

Following bearings obtained of Italian U.Boat at 0115/8 G.M.T. Flowerdown 220/3 Lands End 213/3. Cooling Marshes 224/3.
(D.D.I.C. 0318/8).

1400/4

Off Little Cayman See A.W.I.

1216.

Enemy submarine suspected in position 034° 00' 021° 48' at 1216 to-day.
(Capt. (S) I. 1339/8 to ROVER).

1343.

One submarine reported diving in position to 244 Sands Island 8 miles.
(ROCHESTER 1343/8).

My 1343. Commodore originated report am searching the area. PICOTEE in company.
(ROCHESTER 1355/8).

/2146.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

2146. By D/F. Position of Italian U-boat was 52° 30'N. 16°W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2214/8).

1400/7. Submarine sighted by fishermen off Ribeira Grande (North coast San Miguel Azores) at 1400/7 it submerged, A o.

23 survivors of British ship (SHAKESPEAR) sunk off North East Coast of Island of Sal have arrived at Island. (N.A. Lisbon THI 1400/8).

0030/2. Portuguese fishing vessel was boarded by submarine at 0030/2 in 25 55 N. 15 30 W. Captain spoke French but nationality unknown. (N.A. Lisbon 1613/8).

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.

Italian.

1 in Cape de Verde Islands area possibly to S.E.
1 in Madeira area probably to N. or N.N.E.
1 about 51° N. 21° W. bound for Gironde.
2 West of 15 W. possibly moving N. or N.E. from about (a) 58° N. 17°W. (b) 58°N. 19° W.
Another in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown, may be ineffective.

German.

1 off Portugal northbound.
1 in Madeira area southbound.
2 to northward or northeastward of Rockall may be moving to N.E. as reliefs arrive from North Sea.
1 in 60° 12'N. 15° 27'W. at 1100/7 may be ineffective.
(D.D.I.C. 1328/8).

MOST SECRE

War Diary

9.1.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation FYA

Three motor launches patrolled eastward of the swept channel off Lowestoft last night. M.T.B's patrolled off Dover.

Western Channel Patrol

KASHMIR and JERSEY returned to Plymouth at 0051 today from patrolling between the Start and Lizard. No incidents are reported.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command aircraft last night carried out heavy and successful attacks on the Naval Dockyard and Base, floating and other docks at Wilhelmshaven, docks and shipping at Emden and aerodrome at Borkum.

Enemy Air Activity

Slight damage was done in the dockyard in and attack on Plymouth at 2205 today by a single aircraft.

H.M.Trawler PEKEN was severely damaged by a bomb during attack on Yarmouth trawler base at 2120/9.

Tug SWARTHY was damaged alongside and some unimportant buildings were damaged at Portsmouth by a bomb dropped at 1910 today.

Mining

A mine was detonated off Spurn Pt, today.
Aircraft were observed to drop 2 objects on parachutes, probable mines, south of Smith's Knoll today.
Aircraft laid 4 mines off Dieppe this evening.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.1.1941
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

C. in C., S.A., reports that HAWKINS has picked up 9 survivors of British tanker BRITISH PREMIER (reported overdue 27/12) which was torpedoed, presumably by a submarine whose periscope was sighted, on 24/12 in about 6° 20' N., 13° 20' W. The Master of SS HYDRONSSA reported that on 24/12 he passed what appeared to be a tanker on fire in this locality.

Mediterranean

Air Attack on Malta by German Aircraft

3 Wellingtons were damaged in an Air attack on Luqa aerodrome this morning. At least five enemy aircraft were shot down. A convoy anchored off Marsaxlokk was unsuccessfully attacked this afternoon by 2 formations of 6 and 3 German aircraft.

Air Attack on Benghazi

Last night, 8 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour, hitting 5 large ships and damaging buildings.

Air Attacks on Tobruk

Three air attacks were made on Tobruk today. Offensive and protective patrols were maintained on the Libyan Coast.

2 Supply Ships Sunk

PANDORA sank two Supply Ships off Sardinia this morning.

East Indies

Blenheims bombed Assab today.

MOST SECRET.

9. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/9. (D.C. 1148/9.) At 2330/9, (D.C. 2340/9.).

Hvalford Lover. No defence. (W.C. 1427/8.)
No Adty. 8158/8. All 5.5 inch guns now remounted and in action (HOFOR, London 1901/8.)

Movements.

SALISBURY. Speed reduced owing to weather conditions. Amended E.T.A. noon. (probably SALISBURY 0801/9.)

BURDOCK CAPRICIEUSE. Report immediately your position at 0300/9. (D.C. 1005/9.)

LA CAPRICIEUSE. Your 1005/9 054° 34'N 005° 10' W. (LA CAPRICIEUSE 1251/9.)

BURDOCK. Your 1005/9 054° 34' N. 005° 07' W. (BURDOCK 1253/9.)

KINGSTON JACINTH KINGSTON TURQUOISE. Request you will order KINGSTON JACINTH KINGSTON TURQUOISE and KINGSTON TOPAZ to proceed to Ardrossan for coal after passing Mull of Kintyre. (F.O.C.N.F. 1321/9. to Leith.)

SALISBURY. Report your position course and speed. (C. in C. W.A. 1251/9.)

Trials in HEBRIDS. In view of your 1330/8 not to C. in C. Portsmouth my 1340/8 is cancelled. (D.C.D.(H) 1350/9 to C. in C. Nore.)

BERWICK. Route. Air Escort. Code word "Chain". (C. in C. Portsmouth 1337/9, C. in C. W.A. 1337/9.)

N.P. Trawlers. N.P. trawlers lines occupied tonight. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.C.S. 1302/9.)

/MALAD.....

MOST SECRET.

9. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

NAIAD. Your 1610/8. Intend to sail NAIAD for Tyne when DIDO sails for Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1539/9. to Adty.)

MARGARET. ROSE. Boom defence vessel sailed Tobermory 9/1 for Aultbea. No. W/T. (WESTERN ISLES 1710/9.)

EMERALD. EMERALD is to be prepared to leave Plymouth P.M./11.

2. Re Adty 2350/ 23/12 owing to fog convoy W.S.5.B. has not yet sailed. You will be informed of convoy sailing. (C. in C. W.A. 1725/9.)

LINNET. Intend sailing LINNET for Port A in accordance with A.L.T.O. 6477/40 in convoy W.N.68 to arrive daylight/13, 14/1. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1744/9.)

Operations.

Western Channel .Patrol. Arrivals 1100 KASHMIR JERSEY. (C. in C. W.A. 0051/9.)

Unidentified. Vessel. Following has not been identified, from Fair Isle. One small slow vessel bearing 255°, 10 miles course 180° at 1725. (A.C.O.S. 1137/9.)

Operation. "Rubble". Your 1315/8. Naval support will be sent as soon as ships have sailed. Fog still remains best possible conditions and chances of success in such weather should be high. (V.C.N.S. 1321/9 to N.A. Stockholm.)

Submarines.

Positions & Movements. At 0800/10. (V.A.S. 1653/9, 2301/9.)

/BRITISH.....

MOST SECRET.

9. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Air Patrols 9/1.

Air patrols ordered today Thursday.

STA B.
FUGLE.
I.F.O.P. p.m.
SYDERO.
S.A.1.A.
S.A.2.
S.A.3.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0730/9.)

Patrol STAND is being flown by moonlight tonight returning about 2330.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1728/9.)

Operations tonight.

Operations for tonight 9th/10th Jan.

(A) Available aircraft Nos. 53 and 59 Squadrons to attack Cruiser in dry dock at Brest.

(B) Gardening by No. 812 Squadron Vineleaf. (H.Q. C.C. 1051/9.)

Available aircraft No. 217 Squadron to attack tonight 9th/10th January Cruiser in dry dock at Brest with Tims. Nos. 53 and 59 Squadrons also operating against same target. (H.Q.C.C. 1052/9.)

Attacks on Wilhelmshaven. Emden.

1. Night 8/9 January.
Twelve Wellingtons attacked Naval Dockyard, Naval Base and floating docks and other docks at Wilhelmshaven. Petroleum sheds at Emden and aerodrome at Leeuwarden. At Wilhelmshaven bursts and fires in Bauhafen area. At Emden bursts were observed N.E. of petroleum sheds causing eight large explosions and solid mass of fire covering an acre. Twenty one Whitleys attacked Naval Dockyard at Wilhelmshaven, docks and shipping at Emden and aerodrome at Borkum. At Wilhelmshaven many fires both large and small were caused in the target area. At Emden many fires were started some of which were visible 45 miles away. Explosions followed, one very large one occurring when Whitley was 20 miles away. Explosions followed, one very large one occurring when Whitley was 20 miles away. At Borkum barrack blocks and hangars were hit and a fire started.

/MINE .....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Cont'd.

Attacks on Wilhelmshaven. Emden.

Nine Hampdens attacked Naval Dockyard at Wilhelmshaven aerodrome at Borkum, and merchant ships. At Wilhelmshaven many bursts observed on target and across dock area. Eight Hampdens laid mines successfully. (HQ BC 1817/9)

Enemy Air Activity.

Aircraft plots.

Reference A.L. M 03861/40 of 4th July. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1029/9.)

S.S. CLYTONEUS, bombed 8/1.)

Report if ship has been located with details. It is hoped to provide air search 9/1. (C. in C.W.A. 0005/9. to WILD SWAN.)

S.S. CLYTONEUS. (bombed 8/1.)

Your 0005/9. Ship not located. Have searchgd from 065° 40' N to 060° 20' N. 014° to 016° W. Am continuing search. (WILD SWAN 0049/9. to C. in C. W.A.)

Am in company with ESPERANCE BAY in position 060° 45' N. 015° 35' W. She has just picked up one boat load of survivors from S.S. CLYTONEUS who was bombed 8/1 forenoon. Survivors state she has sunk. Am searching for 2 more boats. (WILD SWAN T.O.O. 1310/9.) T.O.O.missed.

ESPERANCE BAY reports 19 officers and 48 men from CLYTONEUS are on board ESPERANCE BAY and WILD SWAN. CLYTONEUS was bombed by one A/C 1044/8 and is reported to have sunk about 1900/8. (C. in C. W.A. 2361/10.)

My 1233. Have rescued remaining survivors. Incendiary injuries. Am proceeding to rejoin convoy S.L.60. (WILD SWAN 1243/9.)

SWARTHY.

One H.E. dropped by A/C 1910/9. Tug SWARTHY lying alongside North Wall sunk by hit or near miss. All crew safe. Some damage to unimportant buildings. Nine service, slight casualties. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2100/9.)

/PERSIM.....

MOST SECRET.

9. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

PEMEM damaged.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.
About 5 bombs were dropped near trawler base 2120/9 one of which struck H.M.T. PEMEM doing some damage, extent not yet ascertained. Further information will be signalled later.(H.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2325/9.)

Mining.

Queen of War Channel.

Weather permitting intend sailing 19th Group to R.V.Cruden Scaurs at 0800/10, and search east side of War Channel ahead of E.H.54 to position 000 14 miles Kinnaird Head E.T.A.1430/10. Thence return searching west side of War Channel ahead of WN 66. To Cruden Scaurs 2130/10, then return to Peterhead. E.T.A. (H.O.I.C. Peterhead 0955/9.)

Weather permitting, intend sailing 18th M/S Group, R.V. Scurdy Ness at 2359/9. Search East side War Channel ahead of E H 54 to Cruden Scaurs then return to Aberdeen. (H.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1136/9.)

Operation H.B.48.

Humber 9/1 arrivals TEVIOT BANK and INTREPID at 1000.(F.O.Humber 1018/9.)

A/C. mineleying.

Gardening tonight 9th/10th January by No. 22 Sqdn. (H.O.C.C. 1050/9.)

SCOTT.

Cancel my 1043. Anticipate that SCOTT can be sailed to arrive Port E.A. 1600/12. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1251/9 for A.M.L.)

Operation H.B.48.

Position etc. TEVIOT BANK escorted by one destroyer of 20th D.F. as detailed by D.20. C. in C. Nore to arrange air escort. (5) Operation to be carried out in daylight 12/1 or as soon after as practicable. (V.C.N.D.1039/9.)

Sweep off Invergordon.

Sweep of Approach Channel to Invergordon before arrival of MOOLTAN (C. in C. Rosyth 1831/9 to F.O.I.C. Invergordon.O.C

/Number.....

MOST SECRET.

9. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Humber. Magnetic mine detonated by LL Trawlers at 1536 108°. Spurn Point Lighthouse 3.4 miles. (F.O.Humber 1934/9.)

Operation F.V. One. Cancel my 2187 Operation F V one will be carried out between 2300/9 and 0030/10. (C. in C. Nore 2301/9.)

South of Smith's Knoll. Aircraft observed to drop 2 objects on parachute probable mine in approx. 52° 43' N. 2° 13' E. (VERDUN 2222/9.).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest. Result of photographic R.C. (P.I.V. St. Eval 1600/9.)

Kiel. Preliminary report of Kiel R.C. 9/1. Both floating docks empty. Ships present - EMDEN, SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, SCHLESIEN, 3 destroyers, 9 U/B's. Area in vicinity of Holtenau not covered by photographs. (D.D.I.C. 2305/9. to C. in C. H.F. etc.) Note. P.R.U.2045/9, also stated LUTZOW present.

My 2249/14. Ex Norwegian Coast Defence ship TORDENSKJOLD is expected to leave Tonsberg (59° 16' N. 10° 25' E.) January 15/1 anchoring at Valloybukt (approx. 59° 14' N. 10° 29' E.), proceeding 16/1 for German port. She probably has no repeat no main armament but is believed to mount four modern A.A. guns of unknown calibre. (D.N.I. 1857/9 to C. in C. H.F. etc.)

Miscellaneous.

THAMES. Para. 3. Adty. 2147/30/12. Is there any objection to Dutch Rescue Tug THAMES being stationed at Hvalfjord? (D.T.D. 1559/9 to F.O.i/c. Iceland.)

W/T. Installations. F.O.Iceland 2049/9.

MOST SECRET.

9. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

EMPIRE MARINER. — Tug SALVONIA with disabled EMPIRE MARINER in tow. (F.O.I/C. Greenock 1104/9.)

ST. LAURENT. — ST. LAURENT is experiencing an epidemic of influenza which appears likely to put ship out of action. (F.O.i/c Glasgow 1304/9.

M. L. 169. — My 0400/9 M/L 169 returned to Humber at 1130. Defective steering gear. (F.O.I.C. Humber 1215/9.)

RUBENS. — H.M. Trawler RUBENS has not arrived Tobermory. (H.M.S. WESTERN ISLES 1220/9.)

RUNDEHORN. ashore. — Norwegian Trawler RUNDEHORN ashore 063° 32' N. 017° 50'W, all cargo jettisoned. Position renders salvage difficult. Will report further progress. (D.S.T.O. Iceland 1511/9.)

Suggest small ships proceeding to Iceland be warned to keep outside 100 fathoms line till daylight. Special care necessary in regard to deviation of compass degaussing vessels. (F.O. Iceland 1937/9.)

SANDOY. missing. — Norwegian Fishing Vessel SANDOY in sea Trans Service left Akureyri 28/12, reported leaving Isa Fiord 1/1. Has not been heard of since. (D.S.T.O. Iceland 1650/9.)

DUSKY QUEEN. — Whilst on patrol Drifter DUSKY QUEEN grounded in approx. 51° 18. 3' N. 1° 23. 1' E at 0800/ Crew were disembarked by boat. Strong North Westerly winds prevented an examination at low water today but vessel is lying on an even keel. (V.A. Dover 1823/9.)

OBORG. — Tug QUEENS CROSS arrived Clyde 1600/8. Towing SOBORG. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 1900/9.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.1.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

E.N.83. 000° Duncansby Head at 0845. (A.C.O.S. 0944/9).

F.S.83. 26 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0947/9) Add BALDER (Nor.) to my 1703/8. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0948/9). Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1202/9).

F.N.78. Expects to arrive 2½ C Buoy 2000. (WALLACE, 0947/9) Ships to join, (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1634/9).

W.N.68. Code "Mutual". 1030/11, escorts SPURS, PAYNTER. Route. W.N.O. Code "Limited" to R.V. with Mutual (position) at 1100/12. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 0959/9).

H.G.50. Cruising order and cargoes. (F.O.C.N.A., 1141/9).

C.W.22. Arrival, all ships. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1217/9).

O.B.273. 1030/12. Route. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1223/9).

O.B.271. Sailed 1145/9, 8 ships, 9 knots. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1225/9) List (1430/9).

H.X.100. Tankers STANDELLA and VANJA being detached in about 60.45 N., 25.00 W. for Iceland. Due at Reykjavik about 13/1. (D.T.D., 1231/9).

O.B.274. Route. (D.T.D., 1541/9).

F.S.84. Lists (N.C.S.O. Methil 1556/9, F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1632/9).

O.B.M.272. 1603/9. H.M.T. YORK CITY. Six. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1628/9).

S.L.81. Will be met by A/S escort 24 hours earlier. BULOLO to part company at this new R.V., and should not wait for A/S escort if not met. (D.T.D. to BULOLO, 1851/9).

W.N.67. Sailed 2000/9, ULLSWATER and STELLA POLARIS. 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2158/9).

E.N.84. List. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2332/9) POLYDORUS (Date) to Oban for Java, requires routes. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2333/9).

F.N. 78. Humber 9/11 departure H.M.M/L 169 at 0231 to join F N 78 thence to Methil for onward routeing. (F.O. Humber, 0400/9).

/ F.N. 78. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.79.

Number 9/1. Departure H.M. Trawler CHRYSOLITE at 0235 to join F.N.78 thence to Aberdeen.
(F.O. Number, 0403/9).

Coastal Convoys.
O.B.C. 272
CRISPIN

CRISPIN leave Clyde p.m./10 in Convoy O.B.C. 272.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1016/9).

O.B. 272.

Amending his 1504/7 (S.C.S.O. Mersey 1719/9).

F.S.83.

Number 9/1. Departure HUSSAR at 0945 to join F.S.83 for Harwich.
(F.O. Number 1017/9).

O.B.271
WINCHELSEA
RHODODENDRON
GENTIAN

WINCHELSEA sailed for Moelfre Bay, then to escort O.B.271. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1021/9.) Sailed RHODODENDRON and GENTIAN escort for O.B.271 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1450/9).

F.S.84.
GUILLEMOT

My 1225/8 and 36 1555/8 CHANNEL FISHER indefinitely delayed from T 2 buoy GUILLEMOT is now to act as additional escort to FS 84 parting company as necessary to enter Harwich in compliance with C.in C., Nore 1530/8.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1154/9 to GUILLEMOT).

F.S. and F.N.

F.S.81 arrive Southend 1500/9.
F.S.82 arrive Southend 1600/9.
F.S.83 due Aldeburgh 0600/10.
F.S.84 due Flamboro' Head 1200/10.
F.N.79 cancelled.
F.N.8?. Sails Southend 0930/10.
(C.in C. Nore 1200/9).

F.S.84.
H.N.84.
F.N.78.

F.S.84 off Berwick 2000.
H.N.84 sails Methil 2230.
F.N.78 E.T.A. 20 C Buoy 2000.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1550/9).

Ocean Convoys.
H.X.99.

Add my 1515/8 (H.X.99, N P 41 and 42) LOCHNAGAR 061° 10' N. 005° 00' W. for Aberdeen. (A.C.O.S. 0101/9).

S.L.60.

F.O.C.N.P. 0600/9. S.L.60 route (C.in C. W.A. 0959/9 to CAVINA).

?

Not Met. (ABERDEEN 1200/9).

H.G.49.

Meet H G 49 31 ships 1000/11 LEITH KINGSTON JACINTH KINGSTON TURQUOISE KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE KINGSTON TOPAZ (Positions, Route).
(C.in C. W.A. 1207/9).

H.X.103.
ROYAL SOVEREIGN
ORONTES.

Your 1036/7. Concur that ROYAL SOVEREIGN should be used as escort for H.X.103. ORONTES should sail from Clyde a.m./23 in order to R/V with

/ ROYAL SOVEREIGN..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

N.X.103.
ROYAL SOVEREIGN
ORIONTES

ROYAL SOVEREIGN at noon G.M.T./25 (position). Further details. (D.O.D.(H) 1506/9 to R.A. 3 B.S.)

SOMERSETSHIRE.

Request Military Hospital Ship SOMERSETSHIRE be sailed about 16/1 for Suez via the Cape and thence as ordered by C.in C. M.E. to embark invalids. (D. of S.T. 1102/9 to P.S.T.O. Clyde).

SAN FRANCISCO.

Intend sailing French Ship SAN FRANCISCO 1039/10 for Gibraltar for onward routeing to Toulon. Routed in accordance with Admty. 1913/20/10. Speed 12 knots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1513/9.)

Troop Convoys.
W.S.5B.

Your 1247/8 ships have been unable to proceed down river by forenoon tide today. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1144/8).

707. N.O. in Charge Liverpool 1215/8 sailing of W.S. 5 B. postponed 24 hours owing to fog. (C.in C. W.A. 1509/9).

My 1650/8 (Fighter protection for W.S.5B.) Retard all same day by 24 hours. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1625/9 to H.Q.F.C.)

I am informed by harbour master Glasgow that conditions were quite suitable for bringing ships of W.S.5 B down river on last night's tide and that individual pilots were prepared to do so. Request you will inform me why every endeavour was not made to carry out this important movement. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1818/9 to D.S.T.O. Glasgow).

Sailing delayed by fog. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1842/9).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Enemy Raiders.

Situation.

My 1951/4. Raiders A & B. No news since B shell Nauru 26/12. A mine was located off Hobart 4/1. This may have been laid at same time as KULMERLAND mined Bass Straits. These ships may have separated and it is possible one may appear on South American Coast or in Indian Ocean.

Raider C. No firm news since attack on Newshera late November South East of Madagascar. Unexplained QQQQ signal read in vicinity Equatorial Channel on 16/12 and RRRR signal by Mombassa on 31/12 may have been false report by Raider as no ships are known to be overdue.

Raider D. D/F fix N.E. of Bermuda on 20/12 and South of Iceland on 5/1 suggest one or more raiders have returned home.

Raider E. D/F on 4/1 indicated raider 600 miles south of St. Helena, and on 9/1 somewhere in same area, possibly endeavouring to make contact with supply ship. TRIBESMAN overdue Cape from U.K. since 14/12 may be victim of "E".

SCHEER still unlocated.

(D.N.I. 2205/9 to C. in C's etc).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Gibraltar Passages.

Four French armed tugs RHINOCERUS, TEMACE, CETEMIN and one unidentified passed Gibraltar eastbount at 1640/7 escorting French M.V's ARCTURUS, 2532 tons GUILVINEC, 3222 tons, TOURS, 4158 tons, and OUED SEBOU II, 2448 tons. At 1745/7 a French destroyer made rendezvous off Gibraltar with a small French cargo ship which she escorted southward. (D.O.R. 9/1).

Repatriations.

My 1722/8. Portuguese ship GUINE arrives Casablanca Jan 10th. If this ship is required for transporting French it is essential that she should not come to Lisbon as permission would then have to be obtained from Portuguese Government for her to carry out this trip. Companhia colonial are willing to interpret their present permission for transport of French troops as covering this voyage. Request your immediate instructions.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1515/9 to Adty).

MONTESQUIEU.

French merchant ship MONTESQUIEU 3300 tons left Dakar 6/1 for Bordeaux. Ship is of course to be sunk if encountered.
(V.A.S. 1602/9 to S/M's Area B).

Oran, Dakar, Intelligence.

Following from Navy Department (1) From ORAN 31/12. Two submarines one destroyer in harbour. Two Italian Merchant Vessels formerly French prizes one 8,000 tons loaded and one 6,000 ton in ballast funnel grey both preparing leave.

DUNKERQUE will sail for Toulon in next (one) (as received ? two) or tree weeks. From Dakar 7/1 French ship EXPLORATEUR GRADIDIER carrying Native Troops arrived from Morocco. French JEAN L.D. sailed for Madagascar.
(N.A. Washington 1550/9 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SCARBOROUGH — Arrived Gibraltar 0900/9 (S.O.I. Gib. 0908/9).

OSIRIS. — Arrived Gibraltar 1100/9 (S.O.I. Gib. 1102/9).

WISHART. — Arrived Gibraltar 1230/9. (S.O.I. Gib. 1254/9).

Air Report. — Daily Summary Operations. 1 routine A.S. Patrol. 1 surface Recco East. 1 surface Recco West. Flying curtailed owing to weather. Area covered 4° West to 7° West. (200 Group 0173/9).

SCARBOROUGH. H.G. 50. — Gibraltar departure 1430/9. SCARBOROUGH to R/V with H.G. 50. (S.O.I. Gib. 1440/9).

OLYMPUS. — Estimated position of submarines at 0800/10 and movements for following 24 hours. OLYMPUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 1622/9).

South Atlantic.

BAYANO. — Your 1101/25. British ship BAYANO has not arrived. When should (?it) have been expected. (C. in C. S.A. 0146/9 to N.O.I.C. Kingston).

71 Cancel my 0046/9 (0146) ? BAYANO arrived Freetown 1100/9. (C. in C. S.A. 1120/9 to N.O.I.C. Kingston).

JUMNA. — Overdue shipping. British ship JUMNA Mersey departure 16/12 due at Freetown 6/1 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown 1222/9 to Admty).

/CUSTODIAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

CUSTODIAN.

Overdue shipping CUSTODIAN due Capetown from United Kingdom 5/1 not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1815B/9).

A.M.C. Refits.
ARAWA.

The frequent alteration in completion dates of A.M.C. refitting makes it difficult to arrange escort programme ARAWA'S date of completion has been given as ready to sail 3/1, now sailing 9/1.
(C. in C. S.A. 0221N/9 to Admty).

Relief of DEVONSHIRE by SHROPSHIRE.

Your 1218/7/1. SHROPSHIRE should rendezvous with convoy and relieve DEVONSHIRE a.m. on 21/1 (position).
(C. in C. S.A. 1025N/9 to C. in C.E.I).

Minesweepers.

Simonstown arrival 9/1 minesweepers group 109 consisting of SWONA, SKUDE 3, 4 and 5.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1103Z/9).

Shipping in 20° N.

Southbound ships crossing 20° North MARTON for Plate, RAWNSLEY and LOSSIEBANK for Cape. Positions and routes.
(D.T.D. 1311/9 to C. in C. S.A. C.O.Force K. R.A.S.A.D.).

DRAGON
STRATHMORE
ORION
LARGSBAY.

Your 1705 N/8 and your 2057N/8 not to all addresses. DRAGON's anticipated date of completion and readiness for sea 20/1 for defect of port propeller shaft (? mechanising). Ship would be reinstated for moderate speed in original serious defective condition at Three days notice. Intend therefore to divide 580 service personnel between STRATHMORE and ORION and sail these ships independently for Freetown. LARGS BAY to retain her existing 148 service personnel.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1322B/9 to C. in C. S.A).

/Corvettes.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

Corvettes.

75 Request information when two Corvettes not being retained in accordance with Admiralty 1716/30/12. may be expected at Freetown where they are urgently required.
(C. in C. S.A. 1345/9 to F.O.C.N.A).

Shipping River Plate.

Your 1757/7. Probable number of ships from River Plate eight. Six sailing 13/1 and two sailing 14/1. Admiralty pass to R.A.S.A.D., S.A.D. A &W.I. Squadron, F.O. Force K.
(N.C.S.O. Montevideo 1608/9 to C in C. S.A).

Sailing of M/V's to avoid U.Boats.

In view of Admiralty 1905/6 passed in my 1901/8 my 0959/8 is cancelled and para. two my 2231/26 as amended by my 0009/5 is to be reinstated. (2) When giving alternative routes that to the eastward of Cape Verde Islands is to conform to my 2231 Dec 26th that to the westward is to conform to Admiralty 1905 Jan 6th and thence as in my 2231 Dec. 26th (C. in C. S.A. 1845/9 to S.O.I.'s Freetown Capetown).

Convoy Facilities.

Your 0030/6. (Maximum number of ships in a mixed troop transport and supply ship convoy that can be efficiently handled in a two day stay at (a) Freetown (b) Capetown (c) Durban) 12 or a larger number of ships provided total requirements do not exceed oil fuel 7000 tons, coal 2000 tons, water 4000 tons.
(C. in C. S.A. 1951n/9 to Admty).

Navigation Lights.

To give further protection to merchant shipping from raider attack in open waters of South Atlantic, request instructions be issued (amending A.M.S.I. 273) as follows. In area 9 Navigation lights should not normally be burned to the South Eastward of a line joining Cape Horn and Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A. 2017/9 to Adty).

/DUNEDIN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.1.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

DUNEDIN. CAP DES PALMES. DUNEDIN leaves Freetown noon 10/1 escorting French Ship CAP DES PALMES bound for Takoradi to vicinity Cape Three Point then return to Freetown to arrive at 1600/14. Anticipated speed of advance to Cape Three Point 14 knots, route direct but not within 30 miles of coast. (C. in C. S.A. 2047N/9 to FURIOUS, DELHI

Mediterranean.

Operation M.C. 6. My 1157/7. Intend to carry out Operation M.C. 6 as planned. (C. in C. Med. 1231/9).

"Tora" Gear. Development of "Tora" gear ([redacted].) Details and proposed selection and training of a T.S.R. squadron in use. Request views on potential value in Med. Fleet. (5 S.L. 1646/9 to C. in C. Med) See Mediterranean Vol.

Italian schooners, Bardia. C. in C. Med. reports that during operations for capture of Bardia enemy communication with Tobruk kept up by means of auxiliary schooners of 200 - 300 tons which were run through in the night. One was sunk on 26/12, another captured 29/12, when 8 British prisoners on their way to Tobruk were released. Two more were captured on 31/12. During the operations torpedo bombing attacks were carried out on H.M. ships at Sollum at dawn and dusk. No ships hit, but one torpedo bomber is believed to have been destroyed (D.S. 493, 10/1).

Turkish Liaison. Your telegram 37 of 7/1 to F.O. Turkish General Staff agenda for conversations appear satisfactory and cover the ground Marshall Cornwall and Elmhurst will be prepared to discuss all points mentioned (?except) that point one is largely a naval matter in which Admiral Kelly will collaborate. I also wish to include the importance of good wireless and cable communications between Egypt and Turkey. (C. in C. M.E. 0530/9 to Ambassador, Ankara).

/Targets....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.1.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Targets. for Wellington A/c.

Signal A.446 30/12 originated by A.O.C. in C. Middle East. Herewith repetition. (Begins) A.O.C. Mediterranean Repeated. C. in C. Mediterranean from A.O.C. in C. Further to my A. 436 29/12. As a temporary measure your Wellington effort may be directed generally against naval targets and C. in C. Mediterranean will signal you direct repeated this Headquarters his order of priority preferred. This arrangement is subject to cancellation by me any time when situation demands your Wellington attack be diverted to other targets. T.O.O. 1832/30. (Ends). (A.O.C. Malta 0745/9 and 2235/9 to Air Min) (Note:- Above is signal referred to in C. in C. Med's 1705/2).

Italian Convoy.

Susak report graded B.O. that Italian convoy will sail from Syracuse on 10/1 for Libya along coast of Sicily across to Tunis down Tunisian coast to Tripoli or Benghazi. Number of ships and time of sailing unknown. (S.O.I. Med. 0903/9 to Med Fleet etc).

TETRARCH PARTHIAN

As own force will be operating in Ionian Sea it has been decided to route submarines TETRARCH and PARTHIAN via Corinth Canal to Piraeus where each submarine will spend 2 day before proceeding Alexandria. (Orders and routes)
5. Recognition. When approaching Greek waters and until reaching Piraeus S/Ms are to wear largest ensign at masthead and one horizontal before Conning Tower. Challenge and identification Signal [redacted] on Aldis. 6. All communications between Greek Authorities and S/Ms must pass through Capt. (S) 1.
(Capt S.I. 0947/9 to TETRARCH PARTHIAN).

/PARTHIAN.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.1.1941
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

PARTHIAN — C. in C., Mediterranean requires submarine to be east of 021 degrees 00' East and North of 038° 00' North by 0200 G.M.T. 13/1. My 2000/8 Greek pilot boat will expect PARTHIAN in position 352 from 0500 to 0600 G.M.T. 13/1. (?N.A.Athens, 1430/9 to Capt. S. 1.)

Air Operations — Operational Summary No 213 up to 1200 9/1/41.
Egypt 8/1. Blenheims bombed Tobruk in order to weaken enemy resistance, detailed reports not yet been received.

(iii) Offensive patrols were maintained throughout the day by Hurricanes over Tobruk area but no enemy aircraft were encountered. Australian Gladiators patrolled over the Bardia area. Reconnaissances reported no movement between Bomba and Tobruk.

(iv) 2 Sunderlands patrolled the Libyan coast for enemy shipping, 5 merchant ships 1 hospital ship were seen off Appollonia course West, 2 merchant ships each towing a motor boat with floating mine, further North course West 1 Sunderland dropped depth charge and 2 bombs on suspected submarine without results. No change has yet taken place at Tobruk.

Para 2. Greece Day 8.1. No bombing operations. 1 Sunderland patrolled the South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1228/9)

Malta Air Report

Naples and Palermo Attacked

X. 9187. 1. 17 9/1. Special operational Summary.
(1) 10 Wellingtons 148 Sqdn. despatched 8.1.41 to attack battleships, merchant vessels, dry docks, railway station and junction Naples. Of 6 Wellingtons, each armed with 5 times 500 lbs. S.A.P. plus 7 250 lbs. S.A.P. bombs, 4 attacked 2 battleships at Angloini Quay, 1 attacked industrial area on and north of repair basin and 1 attacked alternative target Palermo harbour. Attack lasted from 1750 to 1930 G.M.T.

/(2).....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.1.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Naples & Palermo Attacked 8/1- Contd.

(2) Results observed. Naples. 1 stick observed to drop on or very near stern of Littorio battleship causing dull red glow visible 5 minutes after leaving the target, and light A.A. in this area to cease fire. Several sticks hit buildings one A gloino Quay and railway lines at quay case and towards town. 1 stick caused bursts of fire among larg M/V's to the west of repair basin. Fires also caused along waterline from north end dry dock to jetty to westward. 2 sticks fell between and on railway station and ship-building aeroplane and metal works.

(3) Palermo. One flash seen either one ship moored on north side of middle jetty or on jetty itself followed by a cloud of white smoke. A second flash on wharf between middle and south jetty. Of three Wellingtons each armed with ten 250 lbs. G.P. and 240 lbs incendiary sent to attack merchant shipping and dock facilities Naples two bombed shipping in Naples and one Palermo harbour.

(4) Remaining 7 aircraft with 10 250 lbs S.A.P. and 240 lbs. incendiaries sent to attack Naples railway station. (results observed)

(6) Vessel seen off west coast of Sicily near Trapani steering north possibly cruiser

(7) Regret delay in despatch of this signal owing to air raid on Malta.

(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1315/9)

C.B.'s For Greece

Your 0907/1. Approved. C.B. 1842 has been superceded by C.U. 6350 which should be issued instead. Six copies of C.B. 1966, 1970 and 3036 will be forwarded by first opportunity. Greek Officers should be cautioned to exercise every care in safe-guarding. (D.A/S.W. 1431/9 to C. in C., Med.)

/Air Reco.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Air Reconnaissance, Oran, Mers-el-Kebir

Photographic reconnaissance of Oran and Mers-el-Kebir is required as soon as possible. Air Ministry have been asked if they can assist but advantage should be taken of any opportunity that offers. (D.N.I., 1859/9 to S.O.Force H.)

Requested that photographic reconnaissance of Oran and Mars-el-Kebir may be carried out by aircraft operating between Gibraltar and Malta as opportunity offers. Appreciated if this could be carried outas soon as possible as matter is urgent. (D.N.I., 1900/9 to A.1. 3 (b) Air Ministry)

Malta, Air Report

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 9/1. All times G.M.T., Part 1. Reconnaissances.

(i) 0500 to 1312 Sunderland closing patrol between Sicily and Sardinia to report movements of enemy shipping. 0639 sighted 1 M/V 3,000 tons at Cape Bon. 0550 to 1400 Sunderland on patrol Western Ionian Sea for enemy shipping. Nil report. 1032 to 1400 Glenn Martin reconnaissance Taranto. Returned due bad weather in Ionian Sea.

Naples, Reconnaissance

(ii) 1026 to 1613 Glenn Martin photographic reconnaissance Messina and Naples and investigate damage done by Wellingtons 148 Sqdn. reported in my 1.17 9/1. Naples Harbour 2 battleships (1 CAVOUR and 1 LITTORIO 4 cruisers 8-10 destroyers 1 M/V 17,000 tons 3 M/V's 10,000 tons 12 5,000 to 7,000 ton M/V's number of smaller M/V's

(iii) 1007 to 1414 Glenn Martin recco Gagliari Trapani Castelvetrano.
Gagliari. 1 submarine 1 auxiliary 5,000 tons 2 M/V's 2,000 tons. A.A. Nil.
Trapani. 3 destroyers 2 auxiliaries 5,000tons Slight inaccurate A.A. Aerodrome. 1 S. 79 and 20 to 30 fighters.
Castelvetrano aerodrome, 1 S.79, 1 large Biplane and 3 CR 42's.

/Part 2. .....

MOST SECRET

9.1.1941
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean--Contd.

Malta
Air Raids

Part 2. Air Raids.

(iv) 0907 to 0926, 12 to 15 Macchi 200's in 3 formations. 6 came low and carried out attack on Luqa aerodrome. Remainder stayed overhead at 8,000 feet. Ground attack resulted in damage to 3 Wellingtons. No casualties. 6 Hurricanes on patrol engaged enemy at 8,000 feet. 4 Macchi 200's shot down dived into sea. Confirmed. 2 enemy pilots baled out some distance out to sea. 1 picked up severely wounded and now in Military Hospital. A fifth Macchi 200 shot down confirmed. No bombs dropped Weather fine and clear.

German
Aircraft

(v) 1514 to 1545 enemy approached in 2 formations of 6 and 3 identified as Ju. 87's They circled round to south and carried out dive bombing attack on convoy anchored on Marsaxlokk. All bombs fell wide of shipping. 1 bomb exploded on land near gun position but no damage or casualties. 4 Hurricanes up but no interceptions. Further formation 12 CR 42's seen by Hurricanes but were too high for interception.

(vi) 1632 to 1712 enemy formation approached N.E. and circled south. Three Hurricanes on patrol but raid did not materialise. Weather heavy cumulus at 10,000 feet. Visibility very good. Naval report no damage to shipping in Marsaxlokk. Army report 1 aircraft down this morning's raid. (H.Q., Med. 1900/9)

Lorries
for Greece

Can any more lorries be supplied to Greece? If so there seem to be many Greek ships loading coal etc., in U.K. for Greece and many of these could probably ship some lorries as deck cargoes. Request this be investigated and early consignments made if possible. Greek Government are ready to arrange purchase themselves but I presume committee prefer to keep supply in its own hands. Between 3 tons to 30 cwt. are suitable, preferably 30 cwt. (M.A. Athens, 1903/9 to Admty., for W.O.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Kismayu.
Air Operations.

C.in C. E.I. 0430Z/8. Suggestions re blocking of harbour by air attack. (Ad. of M., 1538/9 to C.in C. E.I.) See Operations Volume.

Kismayu.

Air photographs taken 7/1 show one ship had left Kismayu. Missing ship appears to be similar to Italian ship DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI. Mogadiscio being reconnoitred 10/1 by CERES. (C.in C. E.I., 0458Z/9 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria, etc.)

LUCIA
defects.

LUCIA reports defective fire row tubes in all boilers due to circumferential cracking. Intend to retube A and B row tubes in all boilers at first opportunity. (C.in C. E.I. 1060Z/9).

S/Ms etc.,
operating
in Indian Ocean.

P.O.C.R.I.N's 0710Z/8 and C.in C. East Indies 1134/8. My 1530/7 to S.O.(I) Colombo is being passed to you separately for information. (S.O.I. Capetown 1106/9 to Admty. etc.)

Massawa,
a/c attacks.

My 0456/8. Aircraft also attacked submarine moored in Massawa overshooting target by 75 yards. One destroyer observed in Floating Dock. Another attack was carried out night 6th/7th, 7000 pounds of bombs falling near submarine moorings but damage unobserved owing to glare of numerous searchlights. (C.in C. E.I., 1102/9).

U.S.9.
Escort.

215. With reference to escort of U.S.9, approximate sailing date from Fremantle 11/2, it is requested you will provide escort in East Indies Station. This request is made with reluctance but is made necessary by heavy commitments in Australian Station. Escort would then be SYDNEY to rendezvous in Australian Bight; HOBART thence to rendezvous in Indian Ocean; CANBERRA thence as arranged by C.in C. East Indies. (A.C.N.B. 1141Z/9 to C.in C. E.I.)

Air Report.
Massawa attack

Sudan. Night 7th/8th. 3 Blenheims and 3 Wellesleys attacked the Power Station and the Submarine Base at Massawa. Results of bombing of Power Station not observed owing to the glare from search-lights. Several bombs fell in target area at Submarine base starting 1 fire. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1229/9).

/ HAWKINS. .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

HAWKINS
AUSTRALIA
SHROPSHIRE
CORNWALL.

0229/31/12, 2346/31/12, 1642/6/1. It is intended that
A. HAWKINS should accompany AUSTRALIA to join the Home Fleet temporarily.
B. SHROPSHIRE should be detached from Aden to start refit as soon as CORNWALL completes.
C. CORNWALL should remain on the East Indies Station.
(2) C's in C. concerned are requested to take necessary action.
(D.O.D.(F) 1313/9 to C-in C's East Indies and Med.)

LYCAON
ANTENOR
DAUNTLESS

British ship LYCAON will arrive position 044° North 094° East at 1630Z/10 from position 010° South 083° East (ii) ANTENOR is to escort LYCAON until relieved by DAUNTLESS (iii) Request C.in C. China will arrange for DAUNTLESS to relieve ANTENOR on relief is to proceed Colombo through position 000° 30' North 083° East adjusting speed to arrive 0930Z/13.
(C.in C. E.I., 1456Z/9).

Air Report.

Summary No.211 for 24 hours ending 1500 9/1. 1 Blenheim 6 Squadron armed reconnaissance Assab area. Nothing to report on satellite landing grounds or in harbour. 1000 lbs. bombs dropped onFodowns point 14 053 hours. 3 Blenheims 4's provided fighter escort convoy B.S.12. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1835/9).

China.

U.S.9.

Your 1242/8 (substitution of QUEEN MARY for QUEEN ELIZABETH in convoy U.S.9) paragraph two concur.
(C.in C. China, 0517Z/9, to D. of S.T.).

Indo-China. Free French Report.

991. From Schompre to General de Gaulle No.43, 7/1 and General Catroux. Have had conversation with Capitaine de Vaisseau Jouan who told me Decoux negotiated alone with Japanese achieving following points
(i) Recognition of Indo China's integrity.
(ii) Release of all prisoners.
(iii) Payment for all damage.
In Tonkin they have so far kept their word, but have stated should de Gaulle movement appear they would occupy all Indo China. He asked me not to launch any movement and to cease all propaganda activity.
He expressed following views regarding situation with British "all hope for British victory but drastic orders from Vichy made stoppage of shipping necessary. Under present circumstances it should be possible for British to send ships to Saigon from time to time". (C.in C. China, 0803Z/9 to Admty.)

/ Interference with Shipping ...

MOST SECRET.

9.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

Interference with Shipping.

Request information whether decision has yet been reached on my 0531 Dec. 1st observing that illegal interference with British shipping on China coast continues and protests produce little or no result.
(C.in C. China 0811Z/9 to Adty).

Indo-China Trade.

My 0947/4. Captain Jouan returns to Singapore for further discussions 15/1 and movements of shipping are being resumed as from tomorrow 10/1.
(C.in C. China 1400/9 to Admty).

Keppel Harbour Defence.

It is approved to protect Western Entrance to Keppel Harbour between Main Island and Blackang Mati Island with controlled minefield consisting of 1 g ard loop and 4 mine loops, preparation for laying being carried out from Changi C.M. Base. Report by signal estimated for work involed. Minefield should be planned locally further details concerning mines are being forwarded under A.L. T.O. 6421/40).
(D.T.M. 1845/9 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

Armed Raider Report., 5/12.

Colon reports U.S.Ship EXMOUTH sighted offensively Armed Merchant ship distant 500 yards position 037 30'N., 022 30'W. 5/12. Wearing white ensign which substituted for another believed German when EXMOUTH recognised as being U.S.Ship. Description 18000 tons passenger cargo type buff upper works black hull seven each side two masts one funnel.
(A.2.)
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 1008/9 to Admty, etc.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.1.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies (Contd.)

T.C. 9. (D.O.D.(H) 1353/9 to R.A. 3.B.S., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1614/9 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.

Australia

Raider Intelligence — Pacific raider W/T intelligence. No information available regarding HARVIK. LANYO MARU and TOKYO MARU fitted similarly. (Details of W/T). German crew state ships in daily communication with Germany but time and frequency used not devulged. Norwegian officer informed two days after occurrance that news of sinking of VIMMI already received in Norway. Same officer also told Raider carried special set for jamming. Raider removed complete transmitter from HOLMWOOD and possibly from other ships and may have used them to simulate messages from British ships. This may explain temporary aerial mentioned earlier which was rigged in MANYO MARU before Nauru attack. No broadcast receivers in use in RANGITANE for 4 days before disablement. That ship's receiver of modern type and radiations unlikely. Experience obtained with RANGITANE's distress message fully bears out policy contained in Admty. message C.S. Above message is also reply to Capt. on Staff Singapore 1037Z/31 to A.C.N.B. (A.C.N.B. 0900Z/9)

Raider 6.6 inch Shell — Examination of base of certain castings of a shell from Raider nicknamed HARVIK recovered from RANGITANE by master of that vessel indicates shell was fired by a 17 C.M. (6.693) gun. (A.C.N.B. 1501Z/9 to Admty. etc.,)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.1.1941.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

BABITONGA — German firm reported to be endeavouring to transfer 886 tons Diesel oil in drums from a Rio de Janeiro warehouse to BABITONGA, which has been at Santos since August, 1949. (D.S. 493, 10/1).

ESPANA. — At Oslo, reported (B.2) as converted into a barrack ship and lying at Granti Quay. (D.S. 493, 10/1).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA. — Graded B. one, MENDOZA sails to-morrow 10/1 for Montevideo where completes with fuel and cargo.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1040/9).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.1.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CAVINA
(Ocean boarding vessel).

The following has been read.
S/M bearing and distance 180 degs 1 mile my position 52.30 N., 18.22 W. course is 054 degs. (CAVINA, 0220/9, 0255/9.)

723. Cancel my 0914/8/1 to CAVINA only. Join S.L.60 which meets local escort in position 53 degs 35' N. 16 degs 00' W. at 0900/9. Thence through 55 degs 00' N. 10 degs 00' W. If submarine is chasing you do not lead her to convoy. (F.O.C.N.F. 0800/9, to CAVINA).

BASSANO

British 4843 tons.
3333 do GCK 57. 24 N. 18. 40 West, BASSANO torpedoed.
(Valentia Radio, 1619/9).

BASSANO torpedoed in position 057° 24' North 18° 40' West at 1719. Investigate. (C.in C. W.A. 1733/9 to WILD SWAN).

Following intercepted by R.S.S. YORK on 6700 k/c's (begins) 3333 BT 57. 24 N., 18 40 W., BASSANO torpedoed BY 1619/9 G.M.T. (Ends).
(F.O. Humber, 1810/9).
BASSANO was bound independently from New York to Glasgow with a general cargo. (D.S., 493).

SHAKESPEAR

S.S. SHAKESPEAR, (names of killed or missing:)
(St. Vincent, C.V., 1720/9 to Admty.)

From preliminary investigation it appears SHAKESPEAR fought a gallant action with U-boat for nearly 2 hours until she received a direct hit on her gun. 2 of U-boat's crew believed to have been killed and others wounded. (D.O.R. 10/1).

BRITISH PREMIER.

Nine survivors of British tanker BRITISH PREMIER (5572 tons) were picked up by HAWKINS at 0830, 3/1 in position 8 degs 8' North 14 degs 42' West. Ship was torpedoed at 1545/24/12 presumably in about position 6 degs 20' North 13 degs 20' West (see my 1911/29) and sank 14 hours later. Submarine did not surface but survivors state that periscope was seen about half a mile from ship. Only one boat got away with 10 men. Seaman Gunner Jack Price died from burns on ?24/12 and was buried at sea. Survivors consider remainder were either killed

/ by the explosion ....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

BRITISH PREMIER. (contd.)

by the explosion or by the flames which soon enveloped the ship and sea around. (C.in C. S.A., 2109N/9, to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

(Following is repeated Admiralty for information). Addressed F.O.I.C. Greenock. S/M sighted on the surface in position 064 degrees 49' 008 degrees 10' west. Our course 337 degrees, speed 13 knots. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0300/9).

1348. S.W. area of Bay of Biscay, indefinite. (D.S. 493).

1728 / 1745 } 52° N., 22° - 23° W., say 460' W. of Valentia. (D.S. 493).

1842. 51½° - 52½° N., 18° - 20° W., say 320' W. of Valentia. (D.S. 493).

Reference Admiralty Message A.F. (position of enemy submarine) Position 52° 29' N. 18° 22' W. at 0155/9 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0428/9).

1400/7. Fisherman sighted a submarine off Riviera Grande San Miguel 1400/7, submarine dived on being sighted. (Capt. S.8, 0940/9, to OLYMPUS).

Gibraltar. Following broadcast from Dakar radio station had passed through Straits of Gibraltar into Atlantic on patrol. (C.in C. S.A., 1616/9 to Admty.) (See 1937/11).

1415/8 reports 10 Italian U/Bs

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian
1 in Cape de Verde Islands area.
1 in Madeira area.
1 about 52° N. 18° W. bound for Gironde.
1 in 52° 30' N. 16° W. at 2146/8, northbound.
1 about 59° 30' N. 16° W. at 0620/9.
1 between 58° N. and 60° N. 18° W. and 20° W.

German.
Possibly 1 in Freetown area.
1 near Canaries southbound.
1 off Spain northbound.
Situation in N.W. Approaches is obscure. Number and position of U/Bs. operating cannot be estimated. Two or three are N. or N.E. of Rockall. (D.D.I.C. 1318/9).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.1.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Convoy W.S.5 B

The Clyde section is still held up by fog. Owing to the danger of air attack the Liverpool section sailed this evening for Belfast.

Defence of Convoys

Arrangements are now being made to provide a certain number of ship borne fighters for defence of convoys.

British Air Activity

Attack on Brest

In good weather last night 10 aircraft of Coastal Command dropped I.B's, H.E. and land mines in the dock area at Brest Two direct hits on the cruiser are reported.

Operations curtailed by fog

Skuas left Hatston today to attack shipping in the Haugesund area, but were compelled by fog to return. All flying by 200 Group today was cancelled owing to the weather.

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on Portsmouth

Some damage from blast was sustained in Portsmouth dockyard by a bomb dropped last night.

An unknown ship reported at 1515 being attacked in the swept channel east of Felixtowe.

Mining

Thames

All outward bound traffic in the Thames from Gravesend was stopped this morning.

/ SS MIDLESEX....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.1.1941
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

SS MIDDLESEX (9583 tons) was sunk by mine in the Bristol Channel this morning. Movement of ships eastward of Barry was suspended.

SS DORSET COAST was mined and damaged off Cardiff this afternoon and was towed to Penarth. (D.O.R.)

Operations Against Vichy French

The Admiralty today issued revised instructions for the treatment of French Merchant ships.

O.B.V. MARON early this afternoon intercepted the French M.V. CANTAL about 350 miles W.S.W. of Casablanca.

Mediterranean

Operation "Excess"

C. in C., Med. reports that Operation "Excess" (passage of M.T. ships through the Mediteranean) was carried out as planned. Five Swordfish were flown off for Malta on Day 3. Early that afternoon Force H was attacked unsuccessfully by 8 aircraft, two of which were shot down single handed by Lt. Comdr. Tillard in a Fulmar. Five mines were cut 15 miles west of Pantellaria that day.

Today, while the westbound convoy was approaching Malta the escort sighted and engaged two enemy destroyers 15 miles south of Pantellaria and sank one (probably VEDA) the second destroyer escaping.

/GALLANT.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.1.1941
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Operation "Excess"-Contd. GALLANT and ILLUSTRIOUS Damaged

GALLANT was hit by a mine or submarine torpedo 25 miles S.E. of Pantellaria and had her bows blown off and was towed to Malta by MOHAWK, covered by 3rd C.S. and BONAVENTURE.

Shortly after noon today air attacks commenced on the Battle Fleet, which was covering the westbound convoy into Malta. Dive bombers, high level bombers and torpedo aircraft were employed. Five of the bombers were J.U. 87 with German markings; these attacked with great determination and skill, suggesting German personnel. This was the first really large scale air attack to which the Fleet had been subjected. ILLUSTRIOUS was hit by 6 bombs and proceeded to Malta with severe damage and casualties, steering by engine. Sixteen of her aircraft were destroyed, but the remainder landed at Malta. Fulmars shot down six J.U. 87 and one or two S. 79 and damaged others.

Air Attack on Messina

Wellington bombers from Malta last night attacked Messina. Cruisers and ships in harbour were straddled, and bursts and fires were seen amongst port installations.

Tobruk and Benghazi were bombed today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Deluge. At 1130/10. (D.C. 1145/10, 2007/10).
At 2330/10. (D.C. 0001/11).

Iceland. K.M.M. required for Reykjavik. Signal Station repaired at Hvitanes (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1449/10).
Amendment to G.O.C. Iceland Force 0469/8 (G.O.C. Iceland Force No T.O.O. recd. 0905/11).

Movements.

GAUSE. My 1842/9 and 0115/10 GAUSE will sail at 1000/10.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock ? 0810/10 to H.Q.F.C., Adty.)

NORTHERN REWARD. NORTHERN REWARD sailed for T.R.37.
(F.O. Iceland 1140/10.)

MARON CANTAL Have French ship FNRH (CANTAL) in company. Request instructions.
(MARON 1220/10).

N.P. Trawler lines occupied tonight Friday. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1507/10).

RAMILLIES. RAMILLIES return to Clyde in company with DUCHESS of YORK.
Destroyers proceed to meet REVENGE ARGUS and KENYA as previously ordered.
(D.O.D.(H) 1555/10 to RAMILLIES).

MARON CANTAL Your 1220/10. If fuel permits send ship to Clyde following route and join H.G.50. Otherwise send or escort to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1758/10 to MARON).

ESPERANCE BAY. MANCHESTER sails Scapa 0130/11 for Tyne. H.N.54 convoy may be met after passing Duncansby Head. Expect air A/S escort by Anson aircraft from daylight/11. Single seater fighters standing by for your protection in the event of air attack. Code Word HATCH. Re lights. (C.in C. Rosyth 1826/10 to ESPERANCE BAY).

(D) 5. Adty's 1555/10. Proceed North of Rockall to R/V carrying out A/S sweep.
(C.in C. W.A. 2013/10 to Capt.(D) 5.)

/ PRIMULA .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

PRIMULA

Intend sailing PRIMULA so as to join F.S.35 off Harwich for passage to Woolwich on 13/1.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2310/10).

Operations.

Battle cruiser sweep

Intend to leave Scapa at 0100/11 in HOOD with REPULSE EDINBURGH BIRMINGHAM and six destroyers. Speed of advance 20 knots through position 58° 55' N. 07° 00' west thence course 300°.
If no further information is received intend to turn for Scapa at 0001/12.
Force will be addressed as battle cruiser force.
(B.C. one 2241/10 to C.in C. H.F.)

Fleet Units leave Scapa 0100 tomorrow Saturday to Westward.
(A.C.O.S. 2256/10 to ships and authorities concerned.).

Submarines.

TRIDENT
LA MOQUEUSE

Orders (Capt.(S) 2 1427/10 to TRIDENT, LA MOQUEUSE). Informing authorities concerned (S.2. 1627/10).

Positions.

0800/11 (V.A.S. 1658/10).

THUNDERBOLT

The following may be encountered one merchant ship from Ayr to Falmouth e.t.a. 1400/11 one merchant ship from Mersey to Falmouth e.t.a. 1200/11.
V.A.S. 1936/10 to THUNDERBOLT).

MOST SECRET.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Following additional patrols ordered today Friday:
Fugle Hornli. (C.in C. Rosyth 0808/10).

My 0808/10. Add SYDERO.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0932/10).

4 Skuas to attack enemy shipping in Haugesund area.

My 0920/8 and 1355/8 Intend to repeat operation today Aircraft leaving at 1045.
(Hatston 0935/10).

Attack on shipping in Haugesund area.

My 0935 4 Skuas left 1050.

My 0935. All aircraft returned Hatston. Aircraft failed to reach objective due to fog. (Hatston 1357/10).

Attack on Brest.

AP/744/10/1. Available aircraft No.217 Squadron to repeat to-night 10/11 January operation as detailed in my AP/742 9/1. Nos.53 and 59 Squadrons also engaged on same target.
(H.Q. C.C. 1155/10, 1157/10).

Attack on Brest.

During night of January 9th/10th weather conditions good, 10 aircraft of coastal command dropped I.B's H.E. and land mines in dock area Brest.2 direct hits on Cruiser reported. (D.D.I.C. 1600/10).

In consequence of the arrangements now being made to provide a certain number of ship borne fighters for defence of convoys it would be appreciated if 804 Squadron could shortly be released from duty in connection with defence of Scapa so that aircraft and personnel may be diverted to new duty - W.P. (39) 8 refers.
(5th Sea Lord 1648/10 to Air Min.)

Operations cancelled.

All flying cancelled owing to weather.
(200 Group 1700/10).

Patrol to intercept enemy.

Request air patrol during daylight/11 in the following area. Rockall, a position 58° 40' N. 12° 30' W. bounded by lines in a direction 300° from these two positions, Patrol to extend as far in a direction 300° as practicable. Object to intercept enemy surface forces attempting the Iceland Faroes passage.
(C.in C. H.F. 2343/10).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Yarmouth.
FEKEN
(bombed 9/1.)

My 2325/9. FEKEN has sustained severe damage from direct hits by bombs. Holes plugged, have pumped ship dry. Ship will be docked at Fellows Yard at 0650/10. One Rating slight injury. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0051/10).

Very slight damage at Yarmouth (Shotley Gates 1650/10).

Attack on Plymouth 9/1.

Plymouth raided by single hostile aircraft at 2205/9. One H.E. bomb dropped in Devonport civil area and one suspected in Mamoaze. A number of I.B's fell in North Dockyard causing slight damage and fires one of which was not extinguished until 0035/10. Casualties so far reported one Naval, one Civilian killed seven civilians seriously injured. (C.in C. W.A. 0850/10).

Attack on Portsmouth.

Following damage was sustained in the dockyard by blast from bomb dropped in water off Promontory between C and D locks on the night of 9 Jan. (Supt. C.E. 1305/10).

W.N. Convoy.

Following has been read:-
Air attack is imminent on even numbered W.N. Convoy. (Lyness 1435/10).

Following has been read:-
Fighter aircraft are being sent to the assistance of even numbered W.N. Convoy. (Lyness 1436/10).

Following has been read:-
No air attack imminent on even numbered W.N. Convoy. (Lyness 1454/10).

?

Following has been received on 385 kc/s. Begins ship being attacked by enemy 52.03N 01.42E. 1515 Ends. (C.in C. Nore 1541/10).

British a/c over Faroes.

Unidentified twin engines monoplane flew low over Thorshavn and Tteraa between 1355 and 1425 no attempt was made by aircraft to identify itself, so it was fired on at both places. Subsequent inquiries indicate aircraft had painted markings with letters S/YG on fuselage. Type possibly Whitley. Request proposals in my submission 011/4 of 14/12 may be communicated to those concerned. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1625/10 to A.C.O.S.).

Convoy W.S.5B.

Enemy air attack imminent on OLIVE. (Rosyth W/T 1916/10).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames.

Stop all outward bound traffic.
(F.O.I.C. London 0832/10 to Adty.)

My 0832/10 traffic is released as far as Gravesend. (F.O.I.C. London 0850/10).

Operation Z M E 14.

Position etc. Operation to be carried out on night of 11/1 or as soon after as practicable. (V.C.N.S. 1044/10 to C.in C. W.A.).

Operation Z M E 14.

Your 1044/10 Z M E 14. Repeating Details. 15' N. 5 degs. 33' W. (ADVENTURE 1555/10).

S.S. MIDDLESEX. Mined.

Mined 192° Flat Holm 0 point 8 miles, Movement of ships to Eastward of Barry Suspended. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1117/10).

S.S. DORSET COAST.

Mined and damaged off Cardiff 1530 and subsequently towed into Penarth Dock (D.O.R. 11/1).

Operation P.V.1.

P.V. One will be carried out between 2130/10 and 2330/10.
(C.in C. Nore 1135/10 N.O.I.C. Harwich 1610/10).

A/C minelaying.

A.P./745 10/1. Operation for tonight 10/11 January. Gardening by No. 812 Squadron. (H.Q.C.C. 1157/10).

AP/746 10/1. GARDENING tonight 10th/11th January by No.22 Squadron.
(H.Q.C.C. 1159/10).
MOST SECRET

Correction.
In message 1159/10 from H.Q. Constal Command, concerning gardening for night 10th - 11th, for "Chrysanthemums" read "Xeranthemums".

Operation S.N.71.

Intend to sail SCOTT for Denies Straits 13/1 to carry out preliminary sounding for operation S.N.71.
(R.A.M.L. 1548/10).

Sweep, Invergordon for MOOLTAN

Your 1831/9. S A Trawler LACENNIA has been detailed and will rendezvous with SOUTHERN FIELD as suggested by N.O.I.C. Dundee at 1730/13. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1820/10).

Humber 9/1.

My 1924/9. Mine was exploded by LL Trawlers VARANIS and GWENLLION (details).
(F.O. Humber 1825/10).

Sheerness 7/1.

Amendment to his 1635/7/1.
(Capt. M.S. Sheerness 1949/10).

/ My 1453/8/1. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

My 1453/8/1. Intend sailing 6 Fleet Minesweepers at 0915/12/1 to search area extending one mile either side of line from 51° 48.3' N. 1° 40.8' to 51° 49' N. 1° 50.5' E., commencing to sweep at 1030 turning at the Eastern limit at 1130 in sweeps at 1230 and returning to harbour, at about 1430. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2308/10 to C.in C. Nore).

Enemy Intelligence.

Raider report.

Disguised Merchant raider.
54 - 06 N. 25 - 20 W. MATHURA.
Suspicious vessel following.
(Lyness 0904/10).

Cancel MATHURA's QQQQ. (CALIFORNIA 0959/10, MATHURA 1113/10).

French Trawlers with German Crews fitted with W/T reporting British Movements.

Your 1858. Request any further information available including particulars if possible which would assist ships to identify these trawlers. (C.in C. H.F. 1022/10 to C.in C. W.A.).

S.S. SNYG.

(i) Norwegian Haugesund Dagblad begins:- "Steamer SNYG mined and sunk off Norway crew saved. Reports that (? foreign) mines are laid off Norwegian Coast are gaining credence and recent numerous sinkings is evidence coastal traffic is extremely dangerous." Ends.
(ii) From Secret source Oslo I learn SNYG was due to discharge Trondjhem early January and afterwards be requisitioned for German Auxiliary Service. (N.A. Stockholm 1107/10).
N.I.D. Comment.
Another Press Report from Oslo via Stockholm confirms this sinking, and alludes to "latest" British mines.

Request you will reply to C.in C. Home Fleet 1022/10. (C.in C. W.A. 1457/10 to D.N.I.)

R.C. of Kiel.

Result of further examination of photographs (D.D.I.C. 1540/10).

/ 3 enemy units in N. Atlantic. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.1.1941. Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

3 enemy units in N. Atlantic.

There are indications from D/F that 3 enemy units may be at sea in the North Atlantic, one to S.W. of Iceland, one to westward of Ireland and one between Ireland and the Azores. Type of vessel cannot be established but possibility that they are surface vessels cannot be ruled out.
(D.D.I.C. 1641/10 to C.in C. H.F., C.in C. W.A., C.in C. S.A., R.A.3., F.O.C., N.A., A.C.O.S., C.in C. A.W.I., V.A.S.)
Repeated (V.A.S. 1838/10 to S/M's on patrol Area B.).

Enemy unit W. of Ireland.

By D/F at 1617 B.S.T. enemy unit in position 54° 40' N., 17° 00' W. Unreliable fix. Frequency does not indicate whether U/B or surface ship.
(D.D.I.C. 1800/10 to Ships and Authorities Orkneys and Shetlands and Western Command, H.Q.C.C.)

By D/F at 1800/10 position of enemy unit was 054° 40' N. 017° 00' W. unreliable fix. No indication whether U-Boat or surface ship. (C.in C. W.A. 1913/10 to SEVERN).

By D/F at 2117/10 position of unknown enemy unit was 51° 25' N. 11° 20' W. Unreliable fix.
Nothing to show whether surface vessel or U/B. (D.D.I.C. 2225/10 to Ships and Authorities Western Command North and South, H.Q.C.C., C.in C. H.F.

Following positions of enemy units obtained by D/F
1. at 1617/10 in approx. 54° 40' N. 17° 00' W. At 2117/10 in approximately 51° 25' N. 11° 20' W.
2. At 1300/10 in position 51° 20' N. 8° 50' W. Coastal Command aircraft sighted a M/V with grey funnel and broad white band on which was painted a Red Cross. (D.D.I.C. 1300/10. Recd. by D.N.I. from C.C.).
3. At 1600/10 U.Boat reported 1 mile off Cape Cod 51° 38' N. 10° 05' W.
(D.D.I.C. 2259/10 to Ships and Authorities Areas A & B., H.Q.C.C., H.O.F.O.R.S.)

MOST SECRET.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

SAN FRANCISCO. (French Merchant Ship) sailed Liverpool 1030/10 and proceeds to Gibraltar with safe conduct from British German and Italian Governments.
(A.C.W.A. 1449/10 to Ships and Authorities Western Approaches.

O.B.271. VANQUISHER. O.B.C. 271 cancelled through fog. Proceed forthwith to R/V with Liverpool portion in accordance with previous orders.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0105/10 to VANQUISHER).

Division. Amended route. (D.T.D. 2000/1).

O.B.C. 272. HONEYSUCKLE. Sailed HONEYSUCKLE escort for O.B.C. 272.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0955/10).

O.B.O. 271. Sailed (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1203/10).

O.B.O. 272. CANDYTUFT. Sailed CANDYTUFT escort for O.B.O.272.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0915/10).

O.B.272.
O.B.M.272.
O.B.C.272.
O.B.O 272.
O.B.C.271. O.B.272 Cancelled. (C.in C. W.A. 1219/10).
O.B.272. Liverpool section cancelled. O.B.272 to R/V with O.B.C.272 and O.B.O.272 1530/11 O Altacarry 8 miles. Ships from O.B.271 to be included in O.B.272. (C.in C. W.A. 1209/10)

O.B.M.272. WELLINGTON. Sailed WELLINGTON to R/V with O.B.M.272.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0940/10).

Suspicious Conduct of Greek S.S. ARBUTUS reports:- "At 1625/3 in approx. 56° 57' N., 13° 16' W. MICHAELIS hoisted out of control balls and pulled out of line. ARBUTUS made enquiries and got reply "Engine trouble speed reduced pleased stand by". By 1830 he had practically stopped. Weather - overcast wind rising squally force 10.

MICHAELIS In O.B.268. At 2130 Greek showed a flashing light. ARBUTUS signalled in reply at least four times over whole period. There was no answer. Flashing continued apparently from abaft the funnel. Signalled him to stop without result.

/At

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

MICHAELIS in O.B.268.

At 2200 shot at light with rifle. At 2230 machine gun still without effect. Light continued to flash until 2345 when Greek was lost in a rain squall, touch was not regained when weather cleared at 0015 and it is estimated that he got under way during that period and on a different course. Estimated visibility of the light in that weather was 2 miles". (Capt: D.Liverpool 1302/10).

F.S. and F.N.

Forecast of sailings (C.in C. Rosyth 1329/10).

F.N.80.

Ships' destinations. (N.C.S.O.Thames. 1536/10).

F.S.84. GUILLEMOT.

GUILLEMOT sailed to join F.S.84. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0208/10).

F.S.83.

Arrived all ships. (N.C.S.O.Thames 2116/1). Also SANFRY ex Humber for Ipswich. (N.C.S.O.Thames 1818/10).

F.N.78.

H.M.T. CHRYSOLITE arrived 0930/10 with F.N.78. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1238/10, 0954/10).

F.N.80. F.S. and F.N.

SALAMANDER from Harwich with F.N.80 to Humber. Convoys:- F.S.83 due at Southend 1600/10. F.N.80 due at Sheringham 0230/11. F.S.84 due at Aldeburgh 0800/11. F.N.81 sails from Southend 0830/11. (C.in C. Nore 1200/10).

F.S.87.

My 2155/3. Amend escort to read VERSATILE and VIMIERA. (C.in C. Rosyth 0931/10).

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

C.E.22. — Of six ships which might be available for C.E.22. on 12th, two are doubtful starters. In view of this it is for consideration that sailing date should be deferred. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1203/10 to C.in C.Nore).

F.N. SALAMANDER. — Harwich 10/1 departure SALAMANDER at 1223 for Grimsby with F.N.Convoy. (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1232/10).

F.N.78. — Arrived (F.O.I.C.Tyne, 1701/10).

E.N.55. E.N.55. — Arrived all 11 ships at 1615/10. (N.O.S.O. Oban, 1841/10). 1830/11. Escort.Additional escort for E.N.55 HASTINGS. Code words etc. (N.C.S.O.Methil 1649/10).

W.N.66. — Scapa departure 1120 FOWEY COLUMBINE and 1330 CURACOA all to convoy WN 66. (A.C.O.S. 1332/10).

W.N.67(O). — 1400/10 Route etc. (N.C.S.O. 1200/10).

W.N.66. E.N.54. F.S.85. — Convoy W.N.66. off Rattray Head 2000 with CURACOA in company who returns to Scapa from Buchan Ness 19th. M/S Group are sweeping ahead of F.N.66 until Cruden Scaurs then proceeding to Peterhead. Convoy E.N.54 off Banff 1800. Convoy F.S.85 sails 2300. (C.in C. Rosyth 1456/10).

E.N.55. HASTINGS W.N.68. — Act as additional L/A escort to E.N.55. sailing at 1830/11. On meeting transfer to W.N.68 due Cape Wrath 0130/13 and Duncansby Head 1200/13. Code word for E.N.55 USAGE and W.N.68 MUTUAL. (C.in C. Rosyth 1517/10 to HASTINGS.)

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

E.N.54.
HAMLET.

My 2331/9 add departure HAMLET as additional escort for E.N.54. WOOLSTON and VESPER with F.S.85. (C.in C. Rosyth 2305/10).

H.X.99B.

Request you will sail DERBY COUNTY in time to meet H.X.99 B estimated to reach 053° 48' N., 005° 08' W., at 1900/10.
(C.in C. W.A. 1143/10 to N.O.I.C. Holyhead).

Re arrival (SARDONYX 1440/10).

H.X.88.
H.X.100.

Route from R/V. (D.T.D. 2000/10).

H.X.99 B.
SARDONYX.

Propose to leave H.X.99 B on anchoring in Moelfre Bay.
(SARDONYX 1640/10).

H.G.49.

Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 0053/10).

S.C.19.

Ocean escort AURANIA subsequently returning to Halifax. (R.A.3 1014/10).

Troop
Convoys.
W.S.5.B.

Aty. 2231/3 and N.O.I.C. Greenock 1651/8 (Requesting fighter co-operation for 1 balleship, 4 destroyers and 1 liner in connection withWS.5). Owing to delay in sailing intend to use alternative route through position (P) and (Q).
(RAMILLIES 0946/10).

Sailed RAMILLIES, KELLY, KELVIN, KIPLING, PUNJABI, DUCHESS OF YORK. E.T.A.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1000/10).

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Your 1816/9/1. Information given by Harbour Master at Glasgow not accurate. Pilot Master reported that even if weather cleared completly movement could not be carried out.
(D. of S.T.Glasgow 1030/10).

Your 1509/9. Ships have been unable to proceed down river by forenoon tide today Friday. Every endeavour will be made on this evening tide when movement would commence 2000.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1102/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1034/10. Intend to remain Bangor until further orders.
(HIGHLANDER 1201/10).

W.S.5.B.

If sailing of W.S.5.B. is again postponed suggest Liverpool section should proceed to another anchorage tonight Friday since they will have been in present exposed anchorage for 3 days and appeared to be in considerable danger of air attack last night against which cruiser(s) could not afford adequate protection.
(C.S.15 1213/10 to A.C.W.A.)

My 1213/10. One aircraft approaching from Mersey passed 9,000 yards from convoy. There was bright moon but hope ground mist prevented us from being spotted.
(C.S.15 1247/10).

C.S.15's 1213. Clyde ships still delayed. C.S.15 is requested to sail Liverpool section to Belfast Lough keeping A/S Yacht in company.

(2) N.O.I.C. Belfast is to sail HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER forthwith to join C.S.15 as ordered by latter.
(C.in C. W.A. 1413/10 to C.S.15, N.O.I.C. Belfast).

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Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

WS 5B (Cont's)
~~ARAWA.~~

Admty. 2251/2. Sailing ARAWA with W.S.5.B. ARAWA reports her maximum station keeping speed is 14.5 knots.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1420/10).

Two generators in J.29 have broken down. Ship cannot possibly sail as arranged.
(P.S.T.O.Clyde 1510/10).

HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER sailed in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1413/10.E.T.A. Moelfre Bay 1915.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1531/10 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

My 1509/9. Sailing time of W.S.5.B. is uncertain as Clyde ships are still delayed.
(C.in C. W.A. 1605/10).

C.in C. W.A. 1413/10. Convoy sails 2300. E.T.A. Eastern End QZS 45 at 0900/11. Request position in which pilots will board ships.
(C.S.15? 1714/10 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).

My 1413/10. If Clyde ships can get down river tonight request you will arrange R/V with Liverpool and Bristol Channel ships as early as practicable in daylight/11.
(A.C.W.A. 1739/10 to N.O.I.C.Greenock).

Extra escort for W.S.5.B. as far as Azores is considered necessary.

2. RAMILLIES has therefore been ordered to return to the Clyde. She should refuel and then act as additional ocean escort to this convoy until in the vicinity of the Azores.

3. DUCHESS OF YORK has been ordered to accompany RAMILLIES to Clyde. She is to be sailed in convoy W.S.5.B. and both ships are to proceed to Halifax after parting company with the convoy.
(V.C.N.S. 1849/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

My 1413/10. Due to air activity you are to sail as soon as possible.
(C.in C. W.A. 1931/10 to C.S.15.)

831. My 1318/5 not to all addressees. A/S escort U.B.5.B. now be as follows from Clyde OTTAWA,CHURCHILL, FEARLESS, BRILLIANT, WATCHMAN, BEAGLE, LINCOLN, LEOPARD. From Belfast HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, VANSITTART. From Londonderry JACKAL, LEAMINGTON, WITHERINGTON.

From Liverpool FORESIGHT on completion of defect.

(2) S.O. LINCOLN.

(3) Destroyers from Londonderry are to be sailed to a R/V which will be given by F.O.I.C. Greenock.

FORESIGHT is to be sailed to overtake convoy.
(C.in C. W.A. 1905/10).

Enemy aircraft operating to South Isle of Man. Keep clear of this area. H.X.99 has been ordered to keep to Westward of 5° W.
(C.in C. W.A. 2203/10 to C.S.15.)

My 1102/10 ships have been unable to proceed down river by this eveing tide. Next suitable tide will be 0830/11.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 2217/10).

F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1648/8.(?1650/8 requesting fighter protection for W.S.5.B. code word OLIVE). Olive sailed 2140/10 for Belfast Lough. E.T.A. before daylight/11.
(C.in C. W.A. 2317/10).

T.C.9.

Your 1353/9 not to C.O.A.C.Halifax. RAMILLIES can be made available as escort for T.C.9.
(F.O.C.3.B.S. 1511/10 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Ships out of Action.

Amendment to 0710/5/1.
(C.in C. Nore 0802/10).

C.in C. H.F. 1558/7 and F.O.I.C.Glasgow's 2004/9. Approved for ARGUS to be taken in hand on arrival by Messrs. John Brown, Clydebank, for fourteen days for urgent repairs only.
(D.O.D.(H) 1046/10).

MOOLTAN.

Your 1130/6. MOOLTAN will be ready to sail after Tuesday January 14th.
(F.O.I.C.Tyne. 1237/10).

MOOLTAN now being prepared at Tyne for laying up at Invergordon requires to proceed from former Port as necessary to arrive off Cromarty Whistle Buoy at 1330/16.

Can MALCOLM be utilised as escort for this passage subsequently proceeding to ultimate destination. Minesweeping entailed precludes any advance in date.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1503/10).

SIKH.

Anticipate temporary repairs to SIKH for passage to Tyne will be completed 18/1 and vessel will then sail weather permitting.
(R.A.D. 1441/10).

FAME.

FAME should be ready for towing to Chatham 31/1 approx. Propose to tow as a hulk, and request tugs may be arranged for that date.
(F.O.I.C.Tyne, 1509/10 to Admty).

M.G.B.52.

M.G.B. 52 arrived here owing to weather and engine defect.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1532/10).

M.L.169.

F.N.78. F.O.Humber's 0400/9 M/L 159 not arrived. (M.L.169 to join F.N.78).
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 1551/10).

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Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

SANDOY. — SANDOY. My 1650/9. Arrived Reykjavik 10/1 having been weather bound Patreksfjord 5 days.
(D.S.T.O Iceland, 1615/10).

S.S.TORQUAY.
S.S. HORSEA. — S.S. TORQUAY loaded with coals, Blyth to Aberdeen, arrived 1500/10, with badly damaged bow, master reports collided with S.S. believed to be S.S. HORSEA in ballast N.E. by N. 9 miles from 22 Buoy Firth of Forth at 0610/10.

Latter vessel afloat when last seen near this position.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1641/10).

BOREAS. — BOREAS should complete ready to leave London a.m./17.
(F.O.I.C. London 1648/10).

ARAWA. — Reasons for delay in completion.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 1718/10).

INGLEFIELD. — INGLEFIELD will join C.in C. H.F. in completion of current refit.
(C.in C. Nore 1732/10).

?CAPRICORNUS. — Resumed operations this afternoon. If weather continues shall endeavour to refloat vessel tomorrow.
(Salvage Officer Yantlet, 1745/10).

BENMOHR. — Following has been read. S.O.S. 56N 9 W BENMOHR. Collision sinking now going boats.
(Port Patrick Radio 2357/10).

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War Diary

10.1.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Treatment of Merchant Ships

Desired to clarify instructions in my 0042/3, which is accordingly cancelled and following revised version substituted.
(2) Escorted Ships. (3) Unescorted Ships (4) In Straits of Gibraltar area only, French territorial waters may be entered for purpose of intercepting either escorted or unescorted ships.
(5) Names and cargoes to be reported and ships detained- not to be treated as enemy ships.
(6) French not informed of action contemplated, but have been told we must continue to exercise our full rights of blockade against the enemy. (Hd. of M., 1407/10, to F.O.C.N.P., C. in C's, F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H.) Full text in Lion copy only.

Your 0042/3 and your 2206/8. There are certain areas in which the purpose of merchant ships and warships become the same and it is assumed any Vichy French warships whether escorting merchant ships or not together with merchant ships they may be es-corting are to be prevented from going to any Free French West African port in accordance with instructions concerning warships and I intend my instructions on this point shall remain in force. My 2001/30/12 refers. (C. in C., S.A., 1801B/10, to Admty amended 1036/11)

French merchant ships escorted by French warships are not to be interfered with except as laid down in South Atlantic Station message 133 G of 30/12 and para 4 of my memo No 125/62 15/11. That is only if proceeding to Free French West African Ports. (C. in C., S.A., 1857N/10 to S.A. Station 1380)

Use of Force

Your 1830/6. So far as possible escorting warship should be disregarded and procedure in Article 78 applied to merchant ships only. If warning shot with live round cannot be fired ahead of merchant ships without risk of being misunderstood by the escort, it should be fired astern of merchant ships. Detailed instructions cannot be given for every variation in circumstance but warning shots should, if possible, be so placed as to avoid the appearance of opening attack upon escorting warships. (Hd. of M., 0117/10., to F.O.C.N.A

/URANIA.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

URANIA — French trawler URANIA sent Gibraltar should arrive p.m/10. (CIRCASSIA, 0543/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Repatriation — It is desired that French ship SAN FRANCISCO sailing Liverpool 1030/10 to Marseilles under safe conduct should call at Gibraltar to enbark French merchant seamen and other nationals for passage to Marseilles. Similar procedure was agreed to in the case of French ship OREGON. Request you approach French N.A. urgently. (Hd. of M. 1345/10 to N.A.Madrid)

Your 1515/9. It is hoped that GUINE will not be required but final decision cannot yet be given. See my 1345/10. (Hd. of M 1359/10 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon)

French Convoy — 1045/10 French Light Cruiser ALBATROSS escorting French ships BELAIN D'ESNAMBUC. P. C & S., 038° 17' N., 009° 29' W., 315° 14 knots. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1453/10 to Admty. F.O.C.N.P.)

My 1453/10. Add French BOREAL. (S.O.I. Gib., 1531/10)

Dakar Intelligence — Following from Navy Department. Arrived Dakar 8/1. MAURICE DELMAS with African soldiers from Morocco and KAKOULIMA from south.
Departure French tanker FIRUZ with 8000 tons Diesel oil requisitioned by French from Vacuum Oil Company escorted by small naval vessel for Casablanca. (N.A. Washington, 1535/10 to Admty.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Ammunition for Eastern Mediterranean

C. in C., Mediterranean 1345/6. During stay at Gibraltar, MONARCH OF BERMUDA and CAPETOWN CASTLE are each to embark certain ammunition for onward passage to Eastern Mediterranean in W.S.5 (b), subject to ships not being unduly delayed in arrival at Freetown. Intended that a replenishment will be despatched to Gibraltar at first opportunity, probably by O.G.Convoy sailing from U.K. on 16/1. (D.T.S.D., 1140/10 to F.O.C.N.A)

CLEMATIS CYCLAMEN JONQUIL GERANIUM

A.M. 1716/30/12. Intend sailing CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN for Freetown 1800/11 and retaining JONQUIL, GERANIUM until return of VEES from Freetown. (F.O.C.N.A., 1242/10 to C. in C., S.A.)

SCOTTISH

Gibraltar departure 1505/10 SCOTTISH for T three. (S.O.I., Gib. 1524/10)

OLYMPUS

Position of submarine at 0800/11 and movements for following 24 hours OLYMPUS on patrol Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A., 1558/10)

Routes for evading U-Boats

Request instructions as to whether routeing from Gibraltar, Las Palmas, Funchal to Southward should now conform with Admty. Messages 1612/19/11/40, 1758/26/11/40 and 1905/6/1/41. (F.O.C.N.A., 1720/10)

ARK ROYAL Aircraft

Your 1558/15/9/40. If an opportunity occurred for ARK ROYAL to exchange 800 Skua Squadron for a Pulmar Squadron, would you prefer this to retaining 800 Squadron. (D.N.A.D., 1739/10 to S.O.Force H.)

Enemy Units

There are indications from D/F of enemy Unit(s) between Ireland and Azores. (F.O.C.N.A., 2140/10 to DERBYSHIRE, SALOPIAN)

/RESOLUTION....

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

RESOLUTION.
BONAVENTURE.
JAGUAR.

It is intended that RESOLUTION, BONAVENTURE, JAGUAR should return to U.K. from Gibraltar in company. It is considered that RESOLUTION should be accompanied by four Destroyers throughout her passage from Gibraltar to Portsmouth.

F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange for three destroyers from Gibraltar to accompany this force as far as about 45° N., there to be relieved by three Destroyers to be detailed by C.in C. W.A. which, with JAGUAR, will escort RESOLUTION to Portsmouth.

BONAVENTURE to proceed as required by C.in C. H.F.
(D.O.D.(H) 2303/10 to F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. H.F., C.in C. W.A.)

South Atlantic.

Defence of Takoradi.

Am concerned about protection of Takoradi from attack from seaward. Presume aerodrome and assembly depot there is now of great importance. This is near coast and open to bombardment from seaward. Seaward defence Takoradi consists of one four-inch gun ex a merchant vessel and one 12 pounder. Report Raider not very far away recently has emphasized importance of this, also probability activities at Takoradi are now known. Recommend (a) two six-inch guns be provided and mounted there early as possible and suggest possibility that two now at Simonstown might be used if non available from elsewhere. (b) that of aircraft passing through three or four bombers should be maintained always available for operations against any vessel attacking from seaward. This would be an even more important deterrent than guns.
(C.in C. S.A. 0057/10 to Admty).

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WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

WILLIAM M'RAAHAN. Overdue at Shanghai. My 1631/8. WILLIAM M'RAAHAN arrived at Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0937B/10).

Shipping. In 20° N. Southbound ships crossing 20 degs. North for Capetown:-(Approximate noon positions and Routes) GOVERNOR 9 knots MUNCASTER CASTLE, 13½ knots. My 1817/8 pars.2 add:- CLAN MACNAIR, 12 knots. (Approx. posn. 9/1 and route). (D.T.D. 1152/10 to S.A.Station).

Operation Monsoon. Operation MONSOON completed. Nine Fulmars 39 Hurricanes flown ashore one unserviceable hurricane retained on board. Expected time of arrival Freetown with NEPTUNE ISIS and ENCOUNTER 1230/12. Will require three days in harbour. (FURIOUS 1341/10 to C.in C. S.A.)

French M/V's ASTURIAS. CUMBERLAND. NEWCASTLE. If MENDOZA or other French ships sail on or before 31/1 you are responsible for arc between Uruguayan coast and line 105° from English Bank Light Vessel. CUMBERLAND will take sector between 105 and 160 from English Bank Light Vessel and NEWCASTLE remaining in sector to south. After 13/1 cruiser will not be available for search. B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1835/9 January. Presence of ASTURIAS just outside 3-mile limit might encourage French ships to leave Uruguayan territorial waters and enable action to be taken. ASTURIAS is to read CERRITO - Faulkland Is. routines while operating against French ships. (F.A.S.A.D. 1522/10 to ASTURIAS).

ENTERPRISE. raider decoy message. Transmit a warship raider distress message at about 0700 tomorrow 11/1 on 500 k/cs as if coming from a merchant ship subsequently cancelling message. Object is to encourage enemy raider believed to be in X 36 to proceed to westward. (C.in C. S.A. 1759N/10 to ENTERPRISE).

(H.S.Note:- This message was not received in time. See 1841N/11).

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WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DUNEDIN.
CAP DES PALMES.

Departure 1230/10 DUNEDIN escorting French ship CAP DES PALMES in accordance with C.in C. South Atlantic. 2047N/9.
(S.O.(I)Freetown 1945N/10).

G.R. Squadron Freetown.

Following from G.O.C. Defence problem of Sierra Leone and Freetown. Am convinced R.A.F. aircraft are urgently required at Freetown particularly for distant reconnaissance. As indicated in my JL/8 dated 8/1 R.A.F. proposal now includes the stationing of one G.R. Squadron at Kissi town near Freetown I have consulted C.in C. South Atlantic who has telegraphed his recommendations to Admiralty in his 1559N of 1/1 and am fully in agreement with him that G.R. Squadron should be sent out earliest. Personnel could be housed in temporary accommodation pending completion of permanent quarters. Request Air Ministry be asked to despatch this squadron as soon as possible.
(Comdre, Sierra Leone Area, 1950/10to W.O).

PRETORIA CASTLE.
S.L.62.

Departure 1630/10. PRETORIA CASTLE as ocean escort Convoy S.L.62 and thence in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1745/9.
Local escort of two A/S trawlers until dusk 13/1.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1951/10).

Suspicious Tanker.

Your 1615/4 and my 1755/8. N.C.O. Buenos Aires reports after investigation vessel was undoubtedly Norwegian tanker GEFION which arrived Buenos Airas 8/1 from Curacoa.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 20512/10 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro).

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Schooners Sunk.

During operations for the capture of Bardia, enemy kept up communications with Tobruk by means of auxiliary motor schooners of 200-300 tons. One of these was sunk by WATERHEN on night of 26/12, and on night of 29/12 VOYAGER captured one, thereby rescuing 8 military British prisoners of war who were being taken to Tobruk. Two more were captured on 31/12 by DAINTY (D.O.R., 10/1, D.S., 493, 10/1, Signal (not marked to W.D.) C. in C., Med., 1551/2/1, delayed in transmission.)

A/C. Attacks, Sollum.

Torpedo bomber aircraft made several attacks on our ships in Sollum Roadstead at dawn and dusk during operations. No ships were hit, one torpedo bomber is believed to have been shot down. (D.O.R., 10/1, D.S., 493, 10/1, C. in C., Med., 1551/2/1.)

Air Operations. Messina raid.

Special Operational Summary. All times G.M.T. As result of reconnaissance Messina p.m. 9/1, Seven Wellingtons 148 Squadron despatched to attack naval units and shipping in harbour and marshalling yards Messina night 9/10. Attack from 2155 to 2235. Total weight of bombs dropped 12,000 lbs. G.P. 9,000 lbs. S.A.P.480 lbs. incendiaries. Each aircraft made several runs from average height 9,000 feet. One straight stick fell across cruisers in south part of harbour and a burst seen on waterfront near bow of one cruiser. Observation of bombs near ships in south harbour made difficult by an effective smoke screen from cruisers covering them during the attack. Following shipping seen. 2125 one M/V 8,000 tons five miles south of Cape Passero course north. 2242 two destroyers or cruisers 15 miles N.E. Cape Passero course north. 2244 two M/V's 10,000 tons 5 miles north of Cape Passero course 270 degrees 2249 three M/V's 8,000 tons 5 miles south of Cape Passero course 315 degrees. All aircraft returned undamaged.(H.Q.R.A.F. Med. 0730/10.)

Enemy Units.

From D/F Bearing Italian Warships call signs three (? O) F, seven V J and three Z W appeared to be about 70 miles West of Cephalonia at 0700 G.M.T. today Friday. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria 1140/10.)

/15 inch.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

16 inch Ammunition for bombarding.

Your 1343/6. In addition to 120 rounds of 15" H.E. mentioned in my 1140/10, 100 rounds of 15" C.P.C. are being despatched in W.S.5(b). Further stocks will be sent in W.S.6. 1154/10. to C. in C. Med.) D.T.S.D.

Operation "Excess". Italian Destroyer. sunk. GALLANT. mined ILLUSTRIOUS bombed.

"EXCESS" now approaching Malta. 2 destroyers sighted by escort and engaged 15 miles south of Pantellaria. One sunk probably VEDA. Other escaped. BONAVENTURE expended 75% of low angle ammunition. GALLANT hit by mine or S/M torpedo 25 miles south east Pantellaria. Bow blown off. Proceeding to Malta in tow. No ammunition for BONAVENTURE on station. ILLUSTRIOUS hit by bomb about 1830 proceeding to Malta. (C. in C. Med. 1237/10 to Admty.S.O. Force H., V.A.Malta.)

4

ILLUSTRIOUS, JAGUAR and British ship ESSEX arrived safely. HERO and HASTY sailed to join you 2130.(V.A.Malta, 2047/10 to C. in C. Med.)

Request early report of damage to H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS. (V.C.N.S., 2324/10. to V.A. Malta.)

Operation "EXCESS" carried out as planned.
(ii) D minus one, convoy sailed p.m.to the westwards returning through the Straits after moon set and hugging Spanish coast during D one crossing to Algerian coast during the night.
(iii) D.I. Force H sailed a.m. and proceeded along African coast. 821 X flight underwent endurance tests.
(iv) D.2 BONAVENTURE joined convoy at dawn and MALAYA at dusk. Remainder of Force H covered to the North East, until dark and then proceeded at 22 knots to the eastwards.

/(v) D 3. 5 .....

MOST SECRET.

10. 1. 1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

(v) D.3. 6 Swordfish flown off for Malta at 0500 from longitude 007° 15' E. All arrived safely. Sixth Swordfish did not take off owing to defects.
j0/ Force H rejoined convoy at 0915, Dawn carrier reconnaissance reported Force B in error as enemy units. Force B joined convoy 1000. F.O.C. 3 C.S. reported while passing Pantellaria in bright moonlight he was challenged over long period by aircraft using general call sign followed by word CHESTER aircraft disappeared to N.E. 5 mines were cut 15 miles west of Pantellaria.
(vi) At 0940 shadower observed on R D/F but fighters failed to locate owing to clouds. Dawn reconnaissance returned at 1145 having sighted no enemy vessels. One Swordfish force-landed 30 miles ahead of Fleet crew saved. Sunderland on patrol seagoing side made a nil report at 1236.
(vii) At 1330 R D/F reported raiding approach. 10 S 79 sighted of which 8 attacked at 1346 H L B 10 to 11 thousand feet. Very marked improvement A/A fire which obviously disturbed attack. Force H used ladders. Near misses on MALAYA and GLOUCESTER, no damage or casualties but many bombs fell well clear. Two S 79s. shot down single-handed by Lt. Commdr. Tillard in Fulmar. Three Italians picked up.
(viii) Enemy formation of 9 S 79 seen by aircraft to leave Cagliari at 1425 and picked up subsequently by R D/F did not attack. 3 C R 42 engaged without result by Skuas who were out-manoeuvred.
(ix) At 1735,3 contacts on H L A attacked and depth charged but no result observed. Possibly non S/M. Available carrier reconnaissance sighted no enemy surface vessels. Force H parted company after dark and during absence of risc. (? stars or machines.)
It seems probable presence of convoy was not detected until A.M. on D.3. In spite of previous instructions CLAN CUMMING acted as if leading Exodus of Jews from Egypt. Quality of fuel used by M.T ships for these operations is important.(C.O. Force H. 2335/10 to Adty.)

/Air attacks.....

MOST SECRET.

10. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Air Attacks Benghazi.

Operational Summary No. 214 up to 1200 hrs. 10/1/41. (1) Egypt. Night 7th/8th Jan. 1 Wellington dropped 2750 lbs of bombs on Benghazi harbour starting 2 small fires on jetty. Night 8th/9th Jan. 8 Wellingtons dropped 18,000 lbs. of bombs on Benghazi harbour hitting 4 ships between 7,000 and 10,000 tons moored at the Central Mole and a fifth ship outside the outer Mole. Fires and explosions were also started amongst Government buildings near the Central Mole.(A.O.R.A.F., M.E.,1241/10.)

Air Report. Tobruk.

Day 9/1. Blenheims made 3 attacks on Tobruk during the day hitting barracks and small vessels in harbour . Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols beyond Tobruk and protective patrols over Sollum throughout the day. The defences at Tobruk were successfully photographed in the face of intense A.A.fire. 3 Sunderlands patrolled the Libyan Coast for enemy shipping sighting 2 merchant ships and 1 tug towing a lighter north west of Appollonia. 1 merchant ship was anchored off Derna. Night 9/10th Jan. Wellingtons bombed Benina and Berka Aerodromes starting large fires at Berka. Considerable damage done to aircraft at Benina.

Benina Berka.

Greece.

Greece day 9/1. No bombing operations. 1 Sunderland patrolled the South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping. (H.O. R.A.F. M.E., 1246/10.)

Malta Air Report.

K.9673. I.20 10/1. Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 hours 10/1. All times G.M.T. Wellingtons operations against (Messina?) reported in my I.19 10/

Part I. Reconnaissances. 0743 to 1200 Glenn Martin photographic recco Palermo prior to attack by 830 Sqdn. F.A.A. evening 10/1. 2 destroyers or torpedo boats near middle pier 3 large M/Vs and 8 medium M/Vs in harbour. At 0900 hours sighted 4 cruisers probably C class position 37. 35' N. 12. 10' E.in line astern escorted by 3 E-boats. Course 340 degs. speed 20 knots. One unidentified monoplane encountered over objective.

/On return.....

MOST SECRET.

10. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report.

On return journey sighted two Ju.87s. east of Pantellaria 2000 feet above. 0833 to 1325 Glenn Martin photographic recco Naples and Messina. Naples reported ZARA cruiser on S side of Angioino Mole where previously LITTORIO was. No battleship seen though searched for. 5 cruisers and 4 destroyers in harbour also large liner 30,000 tons, 1 M/V 10,000 tons 5 other smaller M/Vs. At 0931 sighted 3 destroyers position 37.35 degs. N. 11.55 degs. E. course 180 degs. speed 25 knots. Messina, 3 cruisers at southern end of harbour, 3 destroyers alongside pier near railway terminus, also 3 TBs. and fleet auxiliary or M/V in harbour. 0845 to 1350 Glenn Martin photographic recco Taranto and Syracuse. Taranto. Outer harbour damaged battleship and 7 medium M/V's. Inner harbour along destroyer pen 3 cruisers 5 destroyers two fleet auxiliaries. Unable to distinguish object in dry dock. Photos may reveal. 26 seaplanes in inner harbour. At bearing 148° off Taranto distance 49 miles 3 masted schooner anchored with TB. TB opened fire Glenn Martin. Presumably look outs. Syracuse. 4 medium and 5 small M/V's in Western partof harbour also 7 seaplanes. 0500 to 1520 Sunderland recco western part of full Ionian patrol. Nil report.

Malta Air Raids.

Part 2. Enemy air activity. 0747 to 0750 one Breda 30 approached from North and after circling to the west approached and flew over Island about 20,000 feet. Probably recco as no bombs dropped. A.A. engaged. 1045 to 1110 formation of enemy aircraft approached Island from N.E. and when approximately 30 miles joined by another formation approaching from the West. When 15 miles distant enemy withdrew". 6 Hurricanes. Scramble but no interception. At 1400 hours enemy formation of bombers and fighters reported heading for our naval units which were approaching Malta. 6 Hurricanes despatched to intercept. One engagement no result observed. Enemy turned north without attacking. Further enemy formations approached Island approximately 1520 hours. 7 Hurricanes up but no interception and enemy turned away.(H.Q. Mediterranean 1740/10.)Received from Air Ministry 0640/11

/U.S. Munitions....

MOST SECRET.

10. 1. 1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U.S. Munitions. For Greece.

Inform War Office Lord Hankey Committee from N.A. Athens a shipment of unknown tonnage has been bought in America by Colonel Papavassiliou, now at Greek Legation, Washington. Shipment includes 160,000 rounds of mountain gun ammunition 22,000 Brandt bombs and 225 tons of Bronze, and General Heywood considers it of primary importance that it should arrive here before 8/3. Request early shipment in as fast ship as possible. (Athens, 1325/10, to Admty.)

ROVER.

Keep West of (?) Longitude 023° 20' West from 2000 to 2359/11. British air and surface force will be operating close to North-east your area. (Capt. S.I, 1701/10 to ROVER.)

Sweeping own mines, Tobruk.

Your 1057/8. Both Double A and Double L are effective particularly the latter with double pulsing ships as in Corvettes. To ensure complete clearance Channel should be cross swept at an angle of sixty degrees or more from the first sweep. Model experiments and theory show that D.W.I. should also be effective. D.W.I. at 120 feet above mine and 120 knots will sweep a path of 230 feet wide at 30 milliamp relay setting or 330 feet wide at 20 milliamp relay setting. Delay of 5 seconds in mine ensures safety of D.W.I.1803/10. to (C. in C. Med. D.T.M.)

C.B. for Greeks.

Your 0907/1. C.B.01764(30) may be issued to Greek Liaison Officer. Distributing authority Alexandria is being informed. (D.T.D. 1816/10.)

/BONAVENTURE.....

MOST SECRET.

10. 1. 1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN COMMANDS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

BONAVENTURE
JAGUAR.

My 1815/6. BONAVENTURE and JAGUAR may leave Malta Southward 11/1, proceeding direct from N. of searched channel to Pantellaria. Keeping well clear to Northward. T.O.O. 1825/10. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1909/10, to TRIUMPH, UPHOLDER.)

PARTHIAN.

My 0947/9. Adjust speed so as to be east of 021 deg. east and north of 038 deg. north by 0200 G.M.T. 13/1. Pilot boat will expect you from 0500 to 0600 G.M.T. at position E. (Capt. S.I. 1953/10. to PARTHIAN.)

Movements.

Friday 10/1 departure GLOXINIA, arrival ILLUSTRIOUS, JAGUAR, arrival and departure HYACINTH, PEONY, SALVIA, DIAMOND, JANUS, DEFENDER, HERO, JERVIS.
(V.A. Malta, 2357/10 to Admty.)

East Indies.

Air Report
Massawa.

Ops. Summ. No. 214 up to 1200 hrs.10/1. Sudan. Day 9/1. 1 Blenheim photographed power station and submarine base at Massawa. 3 Blenheims photographed Kassala. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1242/10.)

SHROPSHIRE.

Departure SHROPSHIRE in accordance with C. in C. East Indies 1183/8.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1351?/10.)

Red Sea.
Shipping.

Volume of traffic to be passed through Red Sea during next three months will be nearly double present amount. For consideration whether the less important ships should be sailed independently or in small groups for mutual protection against aircraft. Request you will re-consider views expressed in your 1142/2/10. on the following grounds:
(A) Quick turn-round of shipping has become vital.
(B) Dangers of submarine, destroyer and air attack appear now to be much reduced.
(C) In view of (A) the risk of some damage or losses to shipping must be accepted.

/2. with .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Red Sea Shipping.

2. With a view to further economising ocean-going shipping the Ministry of Shipping are desirous of making more use of Port Sudan as a trans-shipment port utilizing a feeder service from Suez. This should also have the effect of relieving congestion at Port Said. Request your remarks. (D.T.D. 1406/10. to C. in C. E. 1.)

FLAMINGO. SHORELAM. YARRA.

Your 1045/10. Expected time of arrival FLAMINGO and Aden 5 ships 0730Z. SHORELAM's asdic out of action until a.m. /12. Propose detaching her at dawn 11/1, retaining YARRA until dawn 12/1. (LEANDER 1435Z/10, to S.N.O.Red Sea.)

"Q" Report, THURLAND CASTLE.

Following 2 messages read by Jacobs radio. (i) 99 99 028 degs. 44' South 035 degs. 10' East, THURLAND, unknown ship. Following Tim of receipt 1258. (ii) THURLAND CASTLE's course true south T.O.O. 1300. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1315B/10.)

My 1315/10. Following received from THURLAND CASTLE (begins) Please cancel distress message time of receipt 1342/10.(Ends). This was received by Jacobs radio in P/L followed by following in Merchant Navy Code (begins). Cancel distress message T.O.O. 1343/10. (Ends.) Note was same as in Original distress message. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1539B/10.)

British THURLAND CASTLE in position 028° 44' South 035° 10' East made a "Q" distress signal at 1052Z/10. Ship sighted may have been H.M.S. RANCHI. (C. in C.E.1, 1456Z/10 to E.I.Sqdn.)

My 1456/10. British THURLAND CASTLE cancelled distress message at 1148Z/10. Cancellation was made in accordance with A.M. D.V. (C. in C. E.1., 1744Z/10. E.1. Sqdn.)

/E.3.18.....

MOST SECRET.

10. 1. 1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

B.S.12.

X.9601. A.525 10/1, Summary No. 302 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 10/13 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided fighter escorts for convoy B.S.12. no operations over Iea or Quteibis country. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1731/10.)

China.

Policy and Strength. Malaya Far East.

Chief of Staff No. 39, having examined tactical appreciation and report on Defence Conference. Pages 3 to 8, Air Forces; Pages 9 to 25, Land Forces, 26 Command; 27 Finance; 28 Communications, 29, Naval. We are raising with Australia and New Zealand question of disposition of their naval forces in the event of war with Japan. 30. No alterations to limits of China and East Indies Naval Commands other than those recently authorised are intended. (Air Ministry 1040/10, to A.O.C. in C. Far East.) Full text in Lion copy only.

N.E.I. Navy.

Admiralty 1707/34/10, Dutch Admiralty have suggested to C. in C. Dutch East Indies that he should arrange operations and visits in consultation with C. in C. China and, through him, with Australian Commonwealth Naval Board. They suggest that he should arrange with N.E. for tanker to use Port Moresby as a base, from which it would proceed to rendezvous with cruiser as necessary. Request you will afford all assistance possible. (D.T.D.(F). 1951/10, to C. in C. China, A.C. N.E.)

MOST SECRET.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

ASUKA MARU, German Stowaway.

Havana reports Ernst Fer Popp German Fireman ex German ship 761 (CONSUL HORN) stowaway in ASUKA MARU continuing in ship to Japan. Ship sailed Baltimore 29/12 Tampa Florida.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 0904/10 to Admty etc.)

VOLTAIRE.

Intend sailing VOLTAIRE as ocean escort to H.X.102 returning to St. John N.B. for refit.
(F.O.3.B.S. 0911/10 to Admty. etc.)

HAMILTON stranding.

Your 1232/30. Assumption confirmed. Regret delay in replying.
(Head of M. 2049/10 to C.N.S.Ottawa.)

U.S. Bases.

Admiralty's 1156/8. Charge d' Affaires 3224 of Dec. 22nd and 3317 of Dec. 28th both to Foreign Office. Can you say what is definition of "Cays adjacent to Morgan's and Tucker's island" does United States Navy intend to use Castle harbour at all for flying boat or does it intend to use Great Sound only Greenslades original intention as expressed in his memorandum to Governor Bermuda was to use Great Sound under certain conditions only.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1201/10 to N.A.Washington).

New Zealand.

ACHILLES EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.

New Zealand Government desire ACHILLES to escort EMPRESS OF RUSSIA carrying approximately 450 Australian and New Zealand air personnel to Vancouver as far as Honolulu arriving approximately 0430Z/17. ACHILLES will require approximately 800 tons of oil fuel. Request permission of U.S. Government may be obtained.
(N.Z.N.B. 0259Z/10 to Admty.)

If concurrence of U.S.A. Government is obtained escort EMPRESS OF RUSSIA to Honolulu. Fuel there and return direct to Auckland.

If concurrence is not obtained escort as far as possible. Oil at Suva on return to Auckland. You are on no account to go below 30 per cent of oil fuel capacity.
(N.Z.N.B. 0303Z/10 to ACHILLES).

My 0259Z/10. To Admiralty. New Zealand particularly anxious regarding safety of EMPRESS OF RUSSIA owing to number of airmen

/carried

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 10.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

carried and quantity of smoke she makes, they would be most grateful if you could give as much escort as possible.
(N.Z.N.B. 0324Z/10 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FORTUNA. FORTUNA is preparing to depart probably today, will report departure.
(Gijon T.H.I. 1400/10).

Italian Merchant ships.

DERNA. Departure 9/1 Italian ship DERNA for Genoa.
(Barcelona 1936/10).

French Merchant ships.

MENDOZA. United Press state that Captain of MENDOZA informed press that British Asst. N.A. had told him Navicert was not required for ships voyage. This is complete fabrication. British Embassy and Consulate have informed press that no Navicert has been or will be given.
(N.A. Beunos Airas 1845/10 to D.N.I. etc.)
(Plans for interception see South Atlantic.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.1.1941.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BRITISH PREMIER (Sunk 24/12)

Overdue shipping. My 1848/27 BRITISH PREMIER was sunk by Submarine in position 6° 20' N., 13° 28' W., at (?) 24/12. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1301/10 to Admty.)

BASSANO (Torpedoed 9/1)

Your 1723/9 (? 1733/9) have recovered 55 of crew from boat in position 057° 58' N.,017 38' W., Ship sank in 5 minutes, one man killed. Am proceeding to Londonderry. (WILD SWAN, 1647/10 to C. in C., W.A.)

Returned to harbour. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 2148/10 to THAMES, SEAMAN)

Submarines Reported

Bordeaux

Eli states that at ship yard Dylebacalan near Bordeaux there are twenty Italian submarines undergoing repairs at present time. Telegram No 6378/6/1. (Consul-Gen Tangier, THI 1110/10 to Admty.)

At 1600/10 U-Boat reported 1 mile off Cape Cod 51° 38' N., 10° 5' W., (D.D.I.C. 2259/10)

Submarines Attacked

By ANEMONE. 1045/7.

Following is precis of ANEMONE's attack on U-Boat:-
On January 6 at 0900 escorting O.B. 269 E.P. 50° 20' N., 13° 20' W., ANEMONE sighted and investigated Swedish Motor Trawler SAN TOOY brilliant navigation lights new paint on sides bound Fleetwood to Reykjavik.
Weather precluded search so rejoined Convoy. Later Trawler observed following Convoy. Gave trawler written instructions to report British Consul, Reykjavik.
After dark while steering to meet H.X. 99 sighted same trawler following Convoy. Decided to shadow as Trawler was by now considered suspicious. Shadowed till 0430 when Trawler dowsed navigation lights and was lost. At 1045/7 steering to meet H.X. 99, submarine on surface proceeding high speed on course of in-coming Convoy. Sighted port quarter, closing ANEMONE, who let her close until

/attack.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.1.1941
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked- Contd.

attack was possible. ANEMONE turned, opened fire 4" gun. Submarine turned. After one hit with 4" gun Submarine dived. ANEMONE carried out 7 deliberate attacks Consider submarine total loss. Inference is that Trawler was assisting Submarine by passing reports.
(Capt. D., Londonderry, 1725/10)

By MILFORD
1335/10.

Attacked U-Boat contact in 2.50 N., 9.20 W 230° Cape Palmas, Liberia, 140' (A.2.)
(D.S. 495, 12/1)

Tiger

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.1.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

General—Patrols, Trade Routes

A reorganisation of A.M.C's of the Northern Patrol, the Halifax Escort Force and the trade routes was approved by the Admiralty today. Certain A.M.C's released from the Northern Patrol, other than those allocated to the Halifax Escort Force, will be transferred to the trade routes. 2 A.M.C's will be maintained on patrol in the Denmark Strait. The Western Patrol is to be carried out by 10 ocean boarding vessels operated and administered by F.O.C.N.P. CHITRAL, from Northern Patrol, and COMORIN and VOLTAIRE from Halifax Escort Force, are to join the Freetown Escort Force

Battle Cruiser Sweep

There were indications from D/F yesterday that 3 enemy units might be at sea in the North Atlantic, one to S.W. of Iceland, one to westward of Ireland and one between Ireland and Azores. B.C. One in HOOD, with REPULSE, EDINBURGH, BIRMINGHAM and 6 destroyers left Scapa early this morning to sweep.

Air R.C. was also ordered.

Western Channel Patrol, and M.T.B., Sweep

Two destroyers again patrolled last night between the Start and Lizard, to protect shipping.
Two M.T.B's left Dover this evening to sweep for a group of about 10 merchant vessels believed to have passed Cape Gris Nez at 1835 steering south westwards. The M.T.B's failed to sight the group. Visibility was good, but north easterly winds and the state of the sea caused considerable interference from spray.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.1.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Attack on Brest

Last night, 14 aircraft of Coastal Command bombed Brest and claim two direct hits on the bows of the cruiser. A small force of heavy bombers also attacked the cruiser; bombs were dropped across the dock, but results were not seen.

Owing to weather conditions routine patrols in the North Sea and Channel were not flown today.

Targets at Rotterdam, the mole at Zeebrugge (2 hits made) and barges in a canal in Holland were attacked by Bomber Command today.

Enemy Air Activity

Portsmouth Dockyard Attacked

Major damage was caused in the dockyard during an attack on Portsmouth last night.

Ramsgate

A single enemy bomber attacked Ramsgate this afternoon. No naval damage is reported.

SS BEACHY

SS BEACHY, Reserve ship attached to Convoy H.G. 49 was bombed and sunk today in the N.W. Approaches.

SEAMAN

Rescue tug SEAMAN today shot down an aircraft which attacked her in the N.W. Approaches and took 3 prisoners.

SS GREYFRIARS

In Convoy F.N. 80 from Portsmouth to Blyth was bombed off Grimsby at 2300 today. (D.O.R.) and went ashore (D.S. 495)

ADVENTURE

Whilst proceeding to position for mine-laying operation Z M E 14 ADVENTURE was machine gunned last this evening by a single aircraft. No material damage or casualties were caused.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.1.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Enemy Minelaying

British tanker BRITISH FIDELITY was mined in the Bristol Channel this morning and was docked at Cardiff. Normal traffic to and from Barry had been resumed some hours earlier. Swansea and ports to the eastward were now closed.

Enemy Minelaying aircraft last night operated in Liverpool Bay and were suspected off Penlee Point.

A mine was exploded in the Thames Estuary by VALOROUS. The ship was not damaged.

Milford Haven was closed this evening owing to mining by enemy aircraft.

Mines were dropped by enemy aircraft in the approaches to Plymouth at 2030 today and the port is closed.

Faroes Minefield

Another Trawler, possibly ORIOLE was sunk this afternoon in the British Minefield off the Faroes. N.O.I.C. Faroes reports that the instructions issued to Aberdeen trawlers dated 5/1 do not appear to be clearly understood by them.

Operations Against Vichy French

With reference to the revised instructions for treatment of French Merchant Ships, C. in C., S.A., considers that to surrender a captured French ship to French forces of equal or inferior strength on demand would have a most unfavourable effect in Africa and amongst native populations. He considers it would be better to resist and only withdraw if in the face of clearly superior force.

The French merchant ship MENDOZA, which arrived at Montevideo today from Buenos Aires, has on board 15 French passengers for Marseilles.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.1.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Force H arrived at Gibraltar this evening from Operation "Excess" RENOWN, MALAYA, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 7 destroyers.

South Atlantic

Simonstown intercepted a raider signal at 0535Z today, but no bearing was obtainable.

Mediterranean

Operation "Excess"

3rd C.S., after escorting GALLANT to the neighbourhood of Malta, proceeded eastward at high speed to join YORK covering convoy M.E. 6. They were shadowed by aircraft on most days and were attacked this afternoon when about 180 miles East of Malta. Both GLOUCESTER and SOUTHAMPTON were hit, and the latter had to be abandoned and sunk.

Air Attack on Palermo

6 Swordfish of 830 Sqdn. F.A.A. raided Palermo last night with good results, obtaining hits on shipping and warehouses. No cruisers were in port at the time and only one destroyer.

Air Attack on Benghazi

1 Wellington bombed Benghazi Harbour last night, starting a fire on the jetty. 7 other Wellingtons bombed Berina and Berka aerodromes.

Bomba

The enemy seaplane base at Bomba was reported to have been apparently deserted by the enemy.

Malta

Enemy aircraft approached Malta 4 times between 1718/10 and 0840/11 but all turned back to avoid Hurricanes except one which flew over on reconnaissance at 23,000 feet and dropped no bombs. With certain aircraft from ILLUSTRIOUS, Malta is now well off for fighters.

/ROVER.....

MOST SECRET

11.1.1941
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

ROVER

ROVER, submarine, in 33.48 N., 20.31 E., is making for Malta with battery severely damaged and may be unable to dive.

East Indies

Enemy aircraft bombed Perim this evening 11 bombs fell in the sea and 5 on land causing no damage or casualties. 3 attacks were also made on the Australian sloop PARRAMATTA, without damage.

U-Boat Campaign

Periodical summary of the anti-U-Boat Campaign is promulgated in D.T.D.'s 1641/11. The last attack on an escorted convoy was made on the night of 5/12/40, since when attacks have been confined to stragglers, ships dispersed from convoy, or ships sailing independently.

MOST SECRET.

11. 1. 41.

Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Northern Patrol. A.M.C's.

My 1011/11. 1. F.O.C.N.W. is requested:-

(a) To arrange for all A.M.C's leaving Clyde after 10/1, for patrol to proceed to Halifax on completion of patrol and to inform R.A. 5 B.S. of his proposed programme for transfer of A.M.C.'s to Halifax and of his future patrol requirements.

(b) To inform Admiralty when CHITRAL will be available to sail for Freetown.

S. R.A.5.B.S. is requested to sail COMORIN and VOLTAIRE for Freetown, as convenient after the arrival at Halifax of two A.M.C.'s of the Northern Patrol.

S. Arrangements will be made for the future carriage of mails and for passages between Iceland and the United Kingdom. (A.C.N.W.H. 1012/11 to F.O.C.N.W.)

Formation of 18th Escort Group.

I intend to form 18th escort group based on Londonderry for escort of Mercantile convoys. Nucleus of group will be VERNONIA, WATCHMAN, DOUGLAS, KEPPEL, KINGCUP, VERBENIA, PETUNIA.
My 1819/2/12 and 1754/1/1 are amended accordingly. My 1306/30/12 is cancelled. (C. in C. W.A. 1923/11.)

Northern Patrol and Western Patrol.

Approved that N.P. area to be patrolled by A.M.C's should be Denmark Strait; and that Western Patrol should be carried out by Ten O.B.V.'s, to be operated and administered by F.O.C.N.P. (D.O.D.H. 1011/11.). See America and West Indies.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1180/11. (D.C.1188/11.)
At 2330/11. (D.C. 2351/11.)

MOST SECRET.

11. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

RAMILLIES, DUCHESS OF YORK. — Returned to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0005/11.)

ARAWA. — Adty. 0003/11. Request you sail ARAWA as soon as possible to Freetown by following Route. (C. in C. W.A. 0447/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

AUSTRALIA, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER. — Arrived Liverpool (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1015/11.)

KASHMIR, JERSEY. — Arrived Plymouth 1057/11. (C. in C.W.A. 0027/12.)

8 M/V's. — Intend to sail Group of 8 M/V's escorted by A/S Trawlers CAPE COMORIN and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE from Needles at 1730/11 for Dartmouth. E.T.A. 0815/12. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1153/11.)

PRINCE OF WALES. — My 1640/4. Owing to minelaying by aircraft that has been taking place in approaches to Liverpool request you will give consideration to sending LEGION or some other ship with good A/A armament to act as A/A Guardship in the Channel for four or five days before this movement takes place. (A.C.N.S.H.1406/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines tonight. 2 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1439/11.)

MANCHESTER. — Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1527/11.)

Operations.

M.T.B. Sweep off Gris Nez. — In view of indications that a group of about ten vessels were passing Cape Gris Nez at 1835/11 steering south-westwards M.T.B's 69 and 72 were ordered to intercept.

/M.T.B.'s.....

MOST SECRET.

11. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

M.T.B. Sweep off Gris Nez. — M.T.B.'s left harbour at 1900/11 and returned at 0020/12 reporting having swept to a distance of 25 miles south-westward of Gris Nez without sighting any ships. Visibility was good but northeasterly winds and the state of sea caused considerable interference from spray.(V.A. Dover 0055/12. to Adty.)

Western Channel Patrol. — KASHMIR and JERSEY left Plymouth 1700/10. (C. in C.W.A. 0057/11.)

Battle-Cruiser Sweep. — Scapa departures:- HOOD, REPULSE, EDINBURGH, BIRMINGHAM, SOMALI, BEDOUIN, TARTAR, ESKIMO, ESCAPADE and ECLIPSE. (A.C.C.S. 0101/11. to Adty.)

Expect A/S Air Escort of one Sunderland about 1000/12. (C. in C. Rosyth 0138/12 to R.A. 1st. B.C.S.)

Operation P. Y. A. — Cancelled tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1923/11.)

Submarines.

UNBEATEN. — Your 1336/9. Intend to sail unescorted at 1500/13. Route to R/V 110° Start Point 3 miles with A/S Trawler at 1000/14. (S.5. 1001/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

SURCOUF / PORPOISE — Your 1044/8. (SURCOUF to relieve PORPOISE) Admiral Muselier concurs. Request you arrange. (A.C.N.S.H. 1149/11. to V.A.S.) (F.F.Admiral 1540/11 to Adty.)

URGE. — Escorted by THIRLMERE passes Bell Rock 1630/11 for Scapa. E.T.A. 0900/12. (S.9. 1301/11.)

L. 23. — Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.C.S. 1313/11.)

TIGRIS. — Arrived, escorted by CUTTY SARK.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1512/11.)

Greenock Areas. — Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1525/11.)

Positions. — For 24 hours after 0800/12. (V.A.S. 1538/11.)

/British.....

MOST SECRET.

11. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Bantry Bay Search. One A.S.V. Hudson to carry out the following search to investigate peculiar W/T activity off Bantry Bay. Attack any ships outside Eire territorial waters not showing lights but hospital ships even if showing lights are to be attacked. Aircraft to be dispatched forthwith. Possibility of U-Boat in area.(A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0022/11 to O.I.C.)

Dutch and Belgian Coasts. On 11/1, nine Blenheims attacked Oil Storage at Rotterdam, a Convoy of 6 ships 15 miles West of Helder, one 1000 Ton M/V. 10 miles West of The Hague, 4 E-Boats 5 miles West of Ijmuiden, and Barges Docks and Shipping at Zeebrugge, Flushing,and Rotterdam. General results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 0029/12.)

Patrols. An A/C will be patrolling over Minch Barrier between 0245 and 0400 from St. Abb's Head to Whitby and return. (C. in C. Rosyth 0040/11 to WOOLSTON, VESPER.) Your 2543/10 Patrol will be flown by Sunderland A/C extending 135 miles along 300°. (C. in C. Rosyth 0132/11 to C. in C. H.F.) Ordered today: I.P.O.P. at Dusk, HORNLI. (C. in C. Rosyth 0818/11.) Patrol HORNLI cancelled for today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1300/11.)

Brest. During night 10th/11th, 14 aircraft of Coastal Command dropped S.A.P. Bombs, I.B and one land mine at Brest. Fires seen in Target area, two direct hits claimed on bows of cruiser; accurate observation prevented by S.L. glare and gun flashes. (D.D.I.C. 1004/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Isle.....

MOST SECRET.

11. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Isle of Sheppey.

Decoy Balloon Barrage.

During past year a tendency has been observed for enemy aircraft to mine Eastern Entrance to Swale possibly due to mistaking that area for Nore anchorage. It is proposed to encourage this mine-laying by deploying decoy balloon barrage on three nights before full moon in area East of Isle of Sheppey enclosed by lines joining following positions.

Balloons at operational height on approximately same siting plan as at Nore anchorage. Period proposed 9th to 11th. February inclusive. Your concurrence is requested. (A.C.N.S.H. 1234/11 to Air Ministry.)

Night Operation.

AP/747 11/1. No. 22 Squadron to repeat tonight 11/12 operations ordered for night 10/11. vide H.Q.C.C. AP/746. 10/1. (H.Q.C.C. 1417/11 to 16 Group, North Coates.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth Damage in Dockyard.

From 1855/10 to 0130/11 attacked with H.E. and Incendiary Bombs. Major damage in Dockyard, R.N. Barracks, VERNON. Considerable damage Haslar, Oil Fuel Depot. Some other minor damage. Casualties apparently very small. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0440/11.) Preliminary report of damage. Casualties so far ascertained 14 Civilians, all slight. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1252/11.)

SEAMAN. (Rescue Tug.)

At 1130/10. in 056° 42' N. 015° 20' W, attacked by enemy aircraft, machine gunned, and near misses by bombs. Second mate wounded. Enemy aircraft brought down and destroyed. Three prisoners, one injured. Estimated position at 06 (00)? 300° 74 miles from Tory Island. Your 0125 and 0445/11 acknowledged. Injured needing attention. (SEAMAN 0650/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

ANTHONY.

Attacked by A/C in 53° 34' N. 16° 4' W. (ANTHONY 1100/11.)

/BEACHY.....

MOST SECRET.

11. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

BEACHY.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.
(British, 1600 Tons) Bombed at 1100, sank 1425, in 53° 29' N. 16° 24' W. Survivors picked up by LADY MADELEINE and ARAB. Casualties unknown. (ANTHONY 1431/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Ramsgate attacked.

At 1355 today single enemy bomber flew very low over Ramsgate dropped two 250 K G H E bombs killing one woman and one child. 4 houses seriously damaged. 50 others slightly damaged. Aircraft obscured by cloud and could not be engaged efficiently by machine gun fire. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1836/11.)

S.S. GREYFRIARS.

In F.N. 80 from Portsmouth to Blyth was bombed and sunk off Grimsby N2300/11 (D.O.R. 12/1.)

Mining.

Possible Dangerous Area.

To keep clear of possible dangerous area proceed up longitude 5° West until North of Calf. of Man. (C. in C.W.A. 0003/11 to C.S.15.)

Plymouth.

Minelaying from A/C suspected in 170° Penlee Point 5 cables. (C. in C.W.A. 0102/11 to EMERALD, JUPITER, KASHMIR, JERSEY.)

Bristol Channel.

My 1117/10. Normal Traffic has now been resumed. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0530/11 to Adty.) Ships not allowed to sail from Swansea and ports to Eastward. Inward Traffic not to proceed Eastward of Wrecksea Light Vessel. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1037/11 to Adty.)

BRITISH FIDELITY.

(British Tanker, 8465 Tons) Mined in Swept Channel. (Portishead Radio 0813/11) Engines totally disabled. Require Tugs. (Burnham-onSea Radio 0840/11.) Position 51° 22' 30" N. 3° 5' 30" W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1027/11 to Adty.) Ship now in Queen Alexandra Dock, Cardiff. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1807/11 to Adty.)

/Z.M.E.14.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11. 1. 41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

E.N.E.14.	Intend leave Milford Haven 1900/11, lay at 2240, and return on completion about 0300 (ADVENTURE 0919/11.)
E.S.49.	Intend to sail from Spurn Point at 0715/13, and take departure from 62 D Buoy at 0945/13. To initial position and returning to 62 D. Laying will begin at 1115/13.(50 Minelayers, Immingham. 0952/11.) Adty. 1539/9. INTREPID detailed. (D.20. 1004/11 to C. in C. Nore.)
Peterhead Area.	Weather permitting intend sailing 12th M/S group rendezvous Scurdy Ness at 2300/11 search east side of War Channel ahead of E N 55 to Cruden Scaurs 0800/12 turn and sweep west side War Channel to Scurdy Ness. 1631/12. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1131/11.)
Search of War Channel.	Approach Channel searched 90%, Weather permitting intend sailing 19th group to rendezvous Cruden Scaurs at 0800/12, and search West Side of War Channel ahead of E N 55 to position 028° 10 miles Kinnaird Head. 1330/12 thence return searching west side of War Channel ahead of W N 67 to Cruden Scaurs. E.T.A. 1900/12. Then return to Peterhead. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1210/11.)
Thames Estuary.	Mine exploded 100° No. 2 Yantlet Buoy 4½ cables. No damage to ship. (VALOROUS 1334/11 and 1341/11 to C. in C. Nore.) About 20 mines more dropped in the early part of the nights 9/10 and 10/11/ an., in the Southend area, the majority to the northward of Yantlet Channel. (D.S.494.)
Mining of Little Sole Bank.	To be augmented by ADVENTURE during January as follows. Request you take charge of operations. (A.C.N.S.F. 1407/11 to C. in C. W.A.). See Operations Volume.

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET.

11. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation BOTTLE.

It is desired to repeat Operation of June 1940. If you concur, request arrangements at earliest convenient date. (A.C.N.S.H. 1409/11. to A.O. C. in C. C.C.) See Operations Volume.

Minelaying by CACHALOT.

Details decided on as follows. V.A.S. to issue orders. (A.C.N.S.H. 1410/11 to C. in C. H.F.) See Operations Volume.

Minelaying) by INTREPID.) and IMPULSIVE.)

Following details decided. Request you take charge of operation. (A.C.N.S. H. 1411/11 to C. in C. H.F.) See Operations volume.

Faroes-Iceland Minefield.

My 1330/3/1. Please confirm Gap proposed in para. 4 is agreed. RAML. requested to amend his proposals for laying this portion accordingly. (A.C.N.S.H.1739/11. to C. in C. H.F.)

Smith's

Master S.S. BALDER Norwegian reports that at 2220/9, an aeroplane dropped two mines on parachutes 1½ miles 185° from Smith's Knoll Light Ship about 1 Cable astern of ship whilst proceeding south in convoy. Moonlight night clear and fine. Aircraft sounded about 100 yards above him but was not seen. (F.O.I.C. London 1610/11.)

Off Yarmouth.

Keep South of latitude 052° 40' N, except for urgent reason. Possible parachute mines vicinity 052° 43' 002° 13' E. (C. in C. Nore. 1853/11 to WORCESTER.)

Milford Haven.

Port closed owing to Mines being dropped from A/C. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1920/11.)

/Faroes.....

MOST SECRET.

11. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Faroes. Trawler MANX KING reports by telephone that at 1700 toOday a trawler, possibly ORIOLE, was sunk by mines with all hands 2.5 miles North of Stakken North Point Stromoo. Amplifying report later. Instructions as issued to Aberdeen trawlers dated fifth January do not appear to be clearly understood by them. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 2130/11. to Adty.)

Plymouth. Closed owing to Mines. (C. in C.W.A. 2204/11.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Shetlands. Following unidentified reports from A.E.S.I. Sumburgh. One small slow vessel bearing 142° 4 miles course 080° at 0440 and one small slow vessel bearing 113° 3 miles course E. 080° at 0500. (A.C.O.S. 0559/11.)

Unknown Unit. By D/F at 1236/11 unknown enemy unit in position 055° 030' N. 021° 00' W. Unreliable fix. (C. in C. W.A. 1407/11 to SEVERN.)

Norway. (1) Reported Wilhelmsen motor vessel TORONTO fitting out as auxiliary cruiser Akers Yard Oslo. C.2.
(2) ARFIN JARL which was sunk at Vado off Agersund in Finland in 7 metres when bound for North Norway is now being salved. C/3.(N.A.Stockholm 1606/11 to D.N.I.)

SAN TOOY. Icelandic trawler SAN TOOY said to be bound Fleetwood to Reykjavik has been ordered to report to British Consul Reykjavik. Please report her arrival or failure to arrive within next three days.(D.N.I. 1657/11 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)(D.N.I. 1657/11 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.) Note by D.N.I. This refers to Captain D. Londonderry's 1725/10. "Suspicious Swedish trewler."

/E-Boats off.....

MOST SECRET.

11. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence Contd.

E-Boats off Terschelling.

A/C reports 5 E-Boats at 1730/11 off Terschelling steering West. (C. in C. Nore 2025/11.) E-Boats reported at sea. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2142/11 to WIDGEON, etc.)

MOST SECRET.

11. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BENMOHR.
EASTWALES.

(British, 5920 Tons.) My 1805/10. Search in 56° N. 9° W. for BENMOHR in collision at 0059/11. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0125/11 to THAMES, SEAMAN.) Have picked up survivors of BENMOHR in collision with EASTWALES in Convoy. My position 297° Inistrahull 65 miles. Am standing by. (CAMPANULA 0200/11 to C. in C. W.A.) Proceed to assist EASTWALES (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0456/11 to SUPERMAN.) Arrived CAMPANULA and BENMOHR. 17 of BENMOHR's crew aboard CAMPANULA. No injured. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0300/12 to C. in C.W.A.)

UBEROUS.

(L.L. Drifter) Went ashore in Foyle Channel abreast Brookhall. Drifter heeled over and sank; no injuries or casualties to personnel. Clear of Channel. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0256/11. 1825/11.)

LANCASTER.

Your 1046/1. Delayed by defects. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0407/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

ROY.

(Norwegian) Convoy F N 89. Engine broken down and anchored 2 cables N.W. of 59 buoy. Am attempting to take her in tow. Request tugs. (SALAMANDER 0845/11 to N.O.I.C. Humber.)

H.M. Tug ST. CYRUS sailed 1022/11 to assist S/S ROY OF NARVIK, engine defects at 59 buoy. Tug IRISHMAN sailed with Salvage Officer 1359 to S/S. GREYFRIARS bombed at 59A buoy. H.M.S. SALAMANDER is standing by with M/S trawlers. (F.O.Humber 1615/11.)

S.S. ROY.
S.S. GREYFRIARS.

My 1615, Situation at present, SALAMANDER standing by Norwegian steamer ROY whose engines are broken down and now anchored ½ mile S W of 59 buoy. Tug ST. CYRUS sent from here fouled propellor and returning to harbour. Tug IRISHMAN has at present failed to find the abandoned steamer GREYFRIARS in neighbourhood of 59 A buoy. IRISHMAN ordered to contact SALAMANDER. Tug SCOTSMAN now leaving harbour. Survivors of GREYFRIARS landed at Grimsby. 1. dead 3 missing. (F.O. Humber 1920/11.)

MOST SECRET.

11. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

M.L. 169.	Returning to Humber with defect. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1042/11 to Admty.)
FORESIGHT.	Defective auxiliary machinery. Unable to sail before 13/1. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1800/11.)
MERSEY.	Owing to enemy action anticipated will not be ready for a considerable time. (Admty. 1811/11.)
S.S. BODNANT. (Collision 30/12.)	Report how many survivors you have on board. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1825/11 to CHITRAL.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.1.1941
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.B. 272	Sailed SURPRISE as additional A/S escort to 52.30 N., 25.00 W., thence to Freetown. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0515/11) See also South Atlantic. Sailed 0311/11 (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0405/11)
Convoy Positions	D.T.D. 1402/10.
O.B. 274	1130/14. Route etc. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1534/10)
S.C. 18	Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D. 1959/10)
H.X. 101	Will be met by A/S escort 24 hours earlier. AUSONIA turn round at new R.V. and not wait for A/S escort if not met. (D.T.D. 2136/11 to AUSONIA)
O.B.O. 272	Sailed. Escort CANDYTUFT. Ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1113/11)
E.N. 55	Ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 1932/11)
	1830/11. Additionnl escort HASTINGS. 19 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1931/11)
W.N. 67	Ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1121/11)
H.X. 100	Meet (C. in C., W.A., 1539/11)
H.G. 50	R.V. etc. (D.T.D. 1317/11)
O.G. 50	Route (D.T.D. 2036/11, 1557/11)
F.S. 85	Ships and destinations (F.O.i/c Tyne 1759/11)
8 M.V's	Intend to sail Group 8 M/V's escorted by A/S Trawlers CAPE CORMORIN and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE from Needles at 1730 today for Dartmouth. Expected time of Arrival 0815/12. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1153/11, amended 1430/11)
5 M.V's.	My 1153/11. Sailed 5 M.V's escorted by CAPE CORMORIN and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1903/11)
H.X. 100	Londonderry departure 11/1. MALLOW, SKATE, SCIMITAR, CLARKIA, HELIOTROPE, NORTHERN DAWN, NORTHERN PRIDE for H.X. 100. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1354/11)

/E.N. 54.....

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

E.N. 54 — Scapa arrival 1500, JASON from Convoy E.N. 54. (A.C.O.S. 1720/11)

W.N. 88 (0) — No ships (N.C.S.O. 1110/11)

H.X. 102 — Halifax 11/1 VOLTAIRE, Ocean escort H.X. 102. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1841/11)

H.X. 99 — Names of arrivals (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1629/11)

Cape Wrath — Your 1815/10. (Proposal to omit all forces and convoys not West of Cape Wrath during dark hours) No objection. (C. in C., H.F., 1909/11)

F.S. 85 — 8 ships from Humber joining at Outer Dowsing. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2140/11 to WOOLSTON, VESPER)

F.N. 80 — Details of ships (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1728/11)

F.N. 81 — Sailed 1020/11, 24 ships

Troop Convoys

W.S. 5 B — RAMILLIES and DUCHESS OF YORK returned to Clyde. (Extra escort for Convoy W.S.5 B) (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0003/11)

W.S. 5 B. sailed from Moelfre 2120/10 six ships ATHLONE CASTLE 31, WINDSOR CASTLE 41, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND 32, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA 42, BRITANNIC 33, SAMARIA 43, Commodore Sir R.A.S. Hill, R.N.R. in ATHLONE CASTLE. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 0934/11)

List of transports (20) and capacity (total 42192/) (D.S.T., 1154/11, to C. in C's etc.)

Intend sailing Clyde portion of Convoy W.S. 5 B at 0015/12 to R/V with Belfast portion and destroyers from Londonderry in position 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0930/12 Thence in accordance with Admiralty's 2340/31 and 1012/7. F.O.I.C. Belfast and N.O.i/c Londonderry are requested to comply accordingly. (N.O.I.C., Greenock, 1110/11 to Admty.)

/My 1110.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.1.1941
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

TRoop Convoys	Shipping
W.S.5 B.-Contd.	My 1110. Time of sailing and R/V delayed three hours. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2329/11 to Admty.)
	Owing to condens r defect CHURCHILL will not sail with W.S. 5 B. (N.O.I.C., Greenock 1825/11)
	Your 1030/10/1. The position was correctly stated in my 1816/9. In view of the circumstances no opportunity of carrying out the movement should have been lost and it would have been undertaken if its urgency had been impressed on the pilots. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1644/11 to D.S.T.O. Glasgow,)
	Your 1849/10 to C. in C., W.A., Intend to part company in position 041° 05' N., 032° 25' W., (RAMILLIES, 1940/11 to Admty)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French Convoy.

My 1453/10. French Light Cruiser ALBATROS parted company off Cape Roca, returning steering 145° 25 knots. Gibraltar 1038/11. Spanish Minelayer JUPITER class passed from West to East.
(S.O.(I) 1127/11 to Admty, etc.)

Policy, French M/Vs.

Your 0042/3 and your 1407/10, 3 (b).
This appears to instruct to the effect that H.M.Ships having seized a French Merchant Ship, if French warships subsequently dispute the possession, the British ships unless British force is overwhelmingly superior are in any circumstances to hand seized ships over without any resistance or show of resistance, I assume that this is not the case.

2. I propose to give instructions as follows, (begins). As in para.3 (b) of your 1407/10 subject to following - if offensive action is taken by the French ships or the demand is peremptory or in the form of an ultimatum without attempt to parley, action is to be taken to resist by force if necessary, action to be broken off as required if opposing force is clearly superior If French ships in demanding surrender of merchant ship discuss matter in friendly spirit, British warship is to reply that this cannot be done without other authority, and at the same time report to the Senior Officer and Admiralty, if unable to report or reply not received within reasonable period ship to be handed over. (Ends).

3. I must point out that I consider to surrender captured French ship after capture to French forces which may be equal or inferior in strength on demand would when known have a most unfavourable effect in British and French territory in this area and amongst native populations. I consider it would be better to resist, fighting it out if British force is superior or approximately equal and only withdraw after action is started if in the face of clearly superior force
(C.in C. S.A. 1713/11 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Force H.
MALAYA,
RENOWN,
ARK ROYAL.

Expect to arrive between 1900 and 2200 today. Request MALAYA be berthed detached MOLE disembark 120 15 inch H.E. shells, proceeding into dock a.m. tomorrow Sunday weather permitting, 2 lighters to be pla ed alongside tonight. RENOWN will berth bow south. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL require 600 and 550 rounds 4.5 H.E. respectively. Intend ARK ROYAL should disembark to North front 2 Swordfish 2 Fulmar and one Skua before dark. Request I may be kept informed of weather (corrupt) Gibraltar.
(S.O.Force H. 0057/11 to F.O.C.N.A.,A.S. Gibraltar).

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. 2 route A/S patrols. 1 surface recco. east 2 A.S. patrols for H.M. Ships approaching from east. Area covered 130° west to 6° West.
(200 Group 1700/11).

Gibraltar arrival 11/1, from 1950 and 2200 S.O. Force "H" in RENOWN, SHEFFIELD, FAULKNOR, FOXHOUND, MALAYA, ARK ROYAL, DUNCAN, FORESTER, FURY, FORTUNE, FIREDRAKE.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 2230/11).

South Atlantic.

ARAWA.

Your 1811/6 and F.O.C.N.P's 1420/10.
C.in C. Western Approaches is requested to sail ARAWA independently to Freetown as soon as possible.
(D.O.D.(H) 0003/11 to C.in C. W.A.)

Freetown Escort Force.

Ships to join. (D.O.D.(H) 1011/11).
See America and West Indies.

Sailed ARAWA 1045 to Freetown in accordance with Admiralty's 0003/11 and C.in C. W.A. 0447/11. Speed 13 knots. (route). Thence according to C.in C. W.A. 1811/6.
E.T.A. (date).
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1240/11 to Adty. amplified 1410/11).

ARAWA left Clyde 11/1 for Freetown (route).
(V.A.N.P. 2204/11 to Western Patrol).

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

SURPRISE. Sailed SURPRISE as additional A/S escort of convoy O.B.272 to (position) thence to Freetown expected time of arrivel 1600/29 (route). Has been instructed to call at Ponta Delgada on passage for fuel. Holds S.P.'s as for FLOWER class corvettes (etc). (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0515/11 to Admiralty).

H.M. Anti-Submarine Yacht SURPRISE leaves position in 052 degs. 40' 025 degs. 00' West at approximately 1200/15 for Freetown (route). (F.O.C.N.P. 1530/11 to Western Patrol).

Operation Monsoon. X.924/10/1 my D.3. 9/1 and D.7. 10/1, completed information arrival Monsoon aircraft. (Takoradi, 0945/11 to Air Ministry).

Your 1341/10. Evolution well executed. (1st S.L. 1220/11 to FURIOUS).

Raider Report. At 0535Z/11 on 8400 kc/s RRRR RRRR. Signal strength Q.S.A.3. No bearing obtainable. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1010Z/11).

FEARLESS, FORESIGHT, VELOX, VIDETTE. My 1624/6. FEARLESS and FORESIGHT after arrival at Freetown are to remain temporarily under the orders of C.in C. South Atlantic. When FEARLESS and FORESIGHT arrive Freetown VELOX and VIDETTE to return to Gibraltar. The two corvettes retained by F.O.C. N.A. in accordance with A.T.1716 of 30/12, should be sailed from Gibraltar to join C.in C. S.A. when VELOX and VIDETTE arrive Gibraltar. When these corvettes arrive at Freetown. FEARLESS and FORESIGHT are to join Force H.
(D.O.D.(F) 1144/11 to C.in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.)

CLEMATIS CYCLAMEN. My 1242/10. CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN routed through position D.020 00'North 018 40' W. Request onward routeing instructions be signalled to CLEMATIS.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1152/11 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN sail 1800/11 for Freetown routed through 033° 30'N., 009° 40'W. 029° 05° N., 012° 30' W. speed 12½ knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1720/11 to MARON, CIRCASSIA).

Gibraltar departure 11/1. CLEMATIS and CYCLAMEN expected time of arrival Freetown 1400Z/1 Saturday 18/1.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1832A/11).

ENTERPRISE raider decoy message.

Regret my 1759/10 was not passed to ENTERPRISE in time. Message was routed via Simonstown. Attempts to pass message by wireless to Simonstown up to 2140 was unsuccessful and message was then passed by cable. It had not however reached N.O.I.C. Simonstown by this means by 1927/11. This latter failure is being investigated and further report will be made. ENTERPRISE arrives Simonstown 0900/12 no further action is being taken.
(C.in C. S.A. 1841N/11 to Admty.)

Tankers.

Your 1549/7. Either BETH carrying 3500 furnace and 5000 diesel due Durban 19th or HAVKONG 14000 furnace due 24th could be made available for convoy. Please report as soon as possible which tanker you propose to use bearing in mind any delay to any tanker most undesirable.
(D.S.T. 19441/11 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Mediterranean.

ROVER.

ROVER in approximate position 033° 48' 020° 31' at 0530/11 with battery severely damaged making for Malta may be unable to dive. Last reported course and speed 290° 14 knots at 1931/10.
(Capt: S.1. 0803/11 to R.A.1.B.S. Group 201).

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air Attack, Palermo.

Special Operational Summary. Following recco. of Palermo on 10/1. 10 Swordfish 830 Squadron were detailed to attack shipping in the port on night 10/11 Jan. 4 aircraft returned soon after take off due to engine trouble. 6 aircraft carried on and were over target from 1900 to 1945, dropping a total of 10,500 lbs. S.A.P. 6,250 S.A.P. and 6,250 L.P. Only 1 M/V 8,000 tons seen on all 3 inner jetties and first aircraft scored a very near miss his third bomb hitting warehouse behind centre jetty. Remaining 5 aircraft attacked concentration of about 12 ships along Outer Mole and round repair basin 1 definite and 4 others or near misses on shipping. Further hits were made on warehouses alongside repair basin and 1 stick started large fire and minor explosions among warehouses behind repair basin. 1 attack made on gun position in harbour but result not seen. No cruisers were in port at time and only 1 destroyer.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 0850/11).

Air Report.

Summary No. 210 up to 1200 hrs. 11.1.41.
1. Egypt. My A.822 10/1.
On night Jan. 9/10 3 Wellingtons dropped 6,000 lbs of bombs and incendiaries on Benina Aerodrome and 3 further Wellingtons dropped the same on Berka Aerodrome. Day 10/1 No bombing operations. Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols throughout the day over the Tobruk area while Australian Gladiators patrolled in the neighbourhood of Sollum. Enemy aircraft bombed Sollum on 9/1 and dropped Thermos bombs in sixth Australian Division area west of Tobruk on night 10/11 Han. No change in military situation at Tobruk.

2. Greece. Day 10/1. 1 Sunderland patrolled in the South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1229/11).

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Air Report.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700 hours 11/1. All times G.M.T. Reconnaissances. 0445 to 1457 Sunderland sweep ahead of east-bound convoy. At 0559 one 2 funnel ship 15,000 tons flying tricolour and marked with Red Cross position 035 degs. 23'N., 17 degs 32'E course 150 degs. speed 8 knots. 0530 to 1515 Sunderland patrol Western Ionian Sea. Nil report. 0600 Glenn Martin despatched to to reconnoitre Taranto for shipping and Catania and Comiso aerodromes. Glenn Martin signalled at 0900 Brindisi 1 Battleship 1 cruiser 2 M/Vs. Since then no news of this aircraft which failed to return pilot was not instructed to reconnoitre Brindisi.

2. Air Raids. 1718 air alarm given when enemy aircraft bombed our naval units at sea off Malta. A second night alarm at 1802 to 1820 hours but in neither case did aircraft come over Malta. 1 Hurricane was up during these alarms. 0645 to 0745 1 S.79 flew over Malta on recco. at 23,000 feet and was heavily engaged by A.A. fire. 6 Hurricenes up but no interception. 1 Hurricane saw enemy aircraft too far away to intercept. 1 Hurricane crashed. Pilot killed. Cause at present unknown but not due to enemy action. 0830 to 0840 enemy aircraft circled North of Grand Harbour. 6 Hurricanes up but enemy aircraft did not cross coast. During both these day alarms Glenn Martin was up with task of shadowing any identified German aircraft seen especially dive bombers in order to locate their base.

3. Offensive action. Operations by Swordfish 830 Squadron F.A.A. against Palermo night 10/11/1 and reported in my I.21 11/1.
(H.Q. Med. 1745/11).

ILLUSTRIOUS damaged by A/C 10/1.

ILLUSTRIOUS was attacked at 1240 by about 25 dive bombers, by high level bombers at 1330 and again by 15 dive bombers at 1610 and by torpedo aircraft at 1920 and received six bomb hits and several near misses from heavy bombs estimated about one thousand pounds, five bombers were JU.87 with German markings.
Damage. Casualties.
Fulmar shot down six JU 87 and one or two S.79 and damaged others. 7 Swordfish and 7 Fulmar landed Halfar, 11 Swordfish and 5 Fulmars lost in fire.
(V.A.Malta, 1035/11 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

ILLUSTRIOUS No dock at Malta.

ILLUSTRIOUS seriously damaged and flooded abaft 136 station. No dock large enough to take her. Consider she should immediately proceed Eastwards if the constructor decides she is sufficiently seaworthy, being screened by GRIFFIN and MOHAWK. She would steer on engines as steering engine and rudder are out of action. Request immediate decision.
(V.A.Malta, 1115/11 to C.in C. Med.)

ILLUSTRIOUS to remain MOHARK GRIFFIN.

Your 1115/11. ILLUSTRIOUS must remain at Malta until moon conditions are more favourable. Every effort must be made to make her more seaworthy, and improve steering Sail MOHAWK and GRIFFIN for Suda Bay at dusk proceeding at high speed.
(C.in C. Med. 1351/11 to N.O.I.C. Malta).

BONAVENTURE JAGUAR.

Am concerned at BONAVENTURE's shortage of L.A.(? ammunition). I am holding her and JAGUAR at Malta in any case until air reconnaissance has relocated the Italian battle Fleet and main cruisers force and suggest deferring her sailing until a more favourable period of moon.
(C.in C. Med. 0817/11 to Adty).

BONAVENTURE, JAGUAR, GALLANT.

494. Intend to sail BONAVENTURE and JAGUAR for Gibraltar at 1600 (- 1) today 11/1. GALLANT arrived in tow of MOHAWK 1130 (- 1).
(V.A.Malta 1249/11 to C.in C. Med.)

Following ammunition reserve for BONAVENTURE should be available at Gibraltar. (Details). PRINCE. 500 rounds left U.K. via Cape for Alexandria. Reserves will be increased to 1 outfit for 10 gun Dido at Alexandria by first opportunity via Cape and to three quarters outfit for 10 gun Dido at Gibraltar in approved proportions.
(D.T.S.D. 1401/11 to C.in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A., BONAVENTURE.)

495. Your 1013. Signals have crossed. MOHAWK and GRIFFIN will sail tonight for Suda Bay. Retaining BONAVENTURE and JAGUAR GALLANT now in dock arrived 1130 (minus) one. Your message to F.O.C. 3rd C.S. passed by aircraft in position 035° 20' N., 016° 15' E at 1115, (minus) one. F.O.C. 3rd C.S. is retaining DIAMOND with him.
(V.A.Malta, 1431/11 to C.in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

GALLANT. damage.

GALLANT has fore part missing as far back as number one boiler room bulkhead except that bridge structure in intact. Number one boiler room flooded. Ship is in dock. 65 ratings but no Officers dead or missing. 15 ratings injured or wounded now in Military hospital Imtarfa.
(V.A. Malta 1709/11 to C.in C. Med.)

BONAVENTURE JAGUAR.

Your 0817/11 to Admiralty only. Concur in deferring sailing of BONAVENTURE and JAGUAR until the moon is more favourable.
(D.O.D.(F) 1832/11 to C.in C. Med.)

Saturday 11th arrival GALLANT, BONAVENTURE arrived and departed GRIFFIN, MOHAWK.
(V.A.Malta, 1905/11).

A.S.10.

Convoy A.S.10 arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1047/11).

French Shipping.

Your 1819/3. General Catroux has communicated this request direct from General de Gaulle who is in turn in communication with the Minister of Shipping with a view to the ships being managed by free French Authorities. Ministry are in opposition to this observing that three of the ships are being used for trooping but will raise no objection if he agrees to administration only by French agent.
(D.T.D. 1609/11 to S.N.O. Suez).

U.S.K.

F.O.C.North Atlantic's 2004/6. (route).
(To arrive Grande Harbour 0700/16).

2. Keep to ease side of deep water channel between Skerki and Pantalleria where a south easterly setting of half of two knots may be experienced. Cape Bon light is reported to be exhibited normally.

3. U/Boat patrols have been reported to West and South of Pantellaria.
(Comdre.(S) Malta, 1857/11 to U.S.K.)

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

SOUTHAMPTON Sunk. GLOUCESTER bombed.

C.S.3. with GLOUCESTER and SOUTHAMPTON appear to have parted company with GALLANT about 0400. At (? 1500) when about 180 miles 105 degrees from Malta ships were attacked by dive bomber aircraft both being hit. 7th C.S. and Battle Squadron some 120 miles away immediately steered to their assistance. Fire broke out in SOUTHAMPTON in vicinity of X Barbette and gained ground until it covered after engine room and after magazine. From information at my disposal it would appear it was not possible to flood magazine and at (? 1906) signal was received from C.S.3. that ship had had to be abandoned and that he intended to sink her. This action in the circumstances I approved. All Forces now proceeding to R/V southwest of Crete.
(C.in C. Med. 2155/11 to Adty).

East Indies.

S.W.4.B. congestion at Durban.

As S.W.4.B. will arrive Durban when W.S.5.A. is there resulting in extreme congestion in the harbour, it is desired that only those cleared ships inSW.4B, which are evacuating families, shall proceed to Durban and that other ships bound for U.K. should bunker at Capetown. I have not however been informed of bunkering, homeward loading or docking of S.W.4.B. ships.
(C.in C. E.I. 0544Z/11).

Convoys.

Departures 0540Z/11 CARLISLE, KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY with B.B.12½ arrival 0600Z FLAMINGO with 5 ships from B.S.12.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 0652Z/11).

Arrival 0730Z/11 SHOREHAM. Departure 1445Z/11 CALEDON for B.S.12¾.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1455Z/11).

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Convoy Facilities.

621. Admiralty 0031/6 and 1642/6.
(i) Consider 25 ships the maximum number in a W.S. convoy that can be passed through Red Sea. Limitation is imposed by number of A/S Vessels available for escort it being assumbed a B.N. or B.S. convoy will be running concurrently and that threat of attack remains on the same scale as at present.

(ii) The speed of advance of fast W.S. convq would probably have to be reduced below 15 knots because most Red Sea Sloops cannot maintain this speed.

(iii) A convoy of over 25 ships is also unwieldy to handle and dispose of in narrow and mineable waters in Southern Red Sea and entrance to Gulf of Suez.

(iv) Ref: 0031/6 from Admiralty para. 2 any number of ships can be accommodated unprotected in outer anchorage Aden where they would have to wait about 5 days for onward escort. If there are personnel ships among them the troops could not be brought ashore for exercise nor water taken out to ships. One or at most two transports a day could be watered in inner harbour. (C.in C. E.I. 1216Z/11 to Adty).

AUCKLAND CRICKET PROTECTOR.

11/1 Masirah arrival and departure AUCHLAND for Bombay. CRICKET with PROTECTOR in company for Aden expected time of arrival 0330Z/15.
(AUCKLAND 1247Z/11).Na

Natel Reserves.

Admiralty General Message. 689A of 11th/1. C.in C. East Indies is requested to arrange for the onward transmission of "NATEL" messages to S.N.O. Aden and S.N.O. Persian Gulf. Passing instructions to this affect will not be included in the heading of the message.
(D.S.D. 1542/11 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Air Report Berbera attacked.

Summary No. 213 and operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 11/1. Following sorties of 8 Squadron made armed photographic reconnaissance over Somaliland and adjacent, 0425 to 0625 1 Blenheim saw no activities. Tug Argan Dash Hargeisa Burao Sheikh Laferug Berbera 1000 lbs. bombs dropped in long dive attack on coast defence gun position Berbera, target missed no opposition Berbera, moderate A/A Hargeisa 0455 to 0535 1 Blenheim saw no activities between coast Harrar and Jiggiga. 1 Blenheim 203 Squadron provided fighter escort for convoy B.N.12½, no casualties, all times G.M.T.
(Aden 1731/11).

Japanese Agents, Egypt.

Your 1406/10/1 M.E.I.C.reports Japanese agents in Egypt have been instructed to collect information on shipping arriving and departing Suez and whether in convoy or unescorted.
(S.B.N.O. Suez 1809/11).

Perim bombed.

Following has been rec'd. Enemy aircraft bombing Perim.
(Bombay W/T 1810Z/11).

PARAMATTA bombed.

H.M.A.S. PARRAMATTA was bombed at 1820Z/11 off Perim, 3 attacks, no damage.
(C.in C. E.I. 1922Z/11).

China.

Thailand - Indo-China dispute.

Following from Foreign Office (deals with situation between Thailand and Indo-China and possibility of British and U.S. Mediation.) (Hd. of M to C.in C. China), (1207/11) Full text in Lion copy only.

America and West Indies.

DESPATCH.

DESPATCH is to leave Jamaica a.m./15 and patrol Square F.30 C. Leave patrol so as to arrive Jamaica p.m./20.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 0952/11).

RAJPUTANA

Halifax arrival 11/1 RAJPUTANA from B.H.X.101. (S.O.(I) Halifax 0901/11).

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

NORVINN.

Your 1054/18/12. (No trace in W.R.) Panamanian ship NORVINN not arrived Trinidad Press reports arrived Chester 2/1. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1301/11).

Convoy T.C.9.

Your 1042/4 and 1734/6 and Admiralty's 1353/9. Availability of shipping for convoy T.C.9 is now as follows:- (details re DUCHESS OF YORK, ORONTES, and WARWICK CASTLE. In view of commitments for these vessels on return to U.K. sailing date from Halifax must be not later than 5/2. Most desirable that all vessels should load homeward cargo to maximum extent within dates required, and in view of short turn-round for ORONTES propose sailing date 5/2 should be arranged. GEORGIC cannot now be available for this day.
(D.O.D.(H) 1706/11 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Japanese Shipping.

Japanese schedule. N.Y.K. California Caribbean Service. ARIMA MARU sailed La Guaire New York 9 days late. Delayed 5 days Panama. Reason unobtainable. O.S.K. California East Coast South America Service. MONTEVIDEO MARU delayed Panama 22nd to 27/12 in unsuccessful attempt to disembarking 100 Jewish German passengers.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 1821/11).

A.M.C's Halifax Escort Force, Northern Patrol, etc.

It has been approved. (a) To allocate the A.M.C's of the Northern Patrol between the Halifax Escort Force and the Trade Routes.

(b) That the Halifax Escort Force should continue the duties of North Atlantic Convoy Escort Force and a reduced Northern Patrol.

(c) That the Northern Patrol area to be patrolled by A.M.C's should be the Denmark Strait.

(d) That two A.M.C's will at all times be maintained on patrol in this area.

(e) That the Western Patrol should be carried out by 10 O.B.V's who will be operated and administered by F.O.C.N.P.

/(f)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

(f) That A.M.C's released from Northern Patrol, other than those allocated to Halifax Escort Force, will be transferred to the Trade Routes.

2. Facilities for fuel and water are being provided at Hvalsfiord and will be available by the end of January.

3. The A.M.C's of the Halifax Escort Force will be administered by R.A. 3 B.S. and based on Halifax. Operational control will be as follows:-
By R.A. 3 B.S. Whilst acting as convoy escort, in Canadian waters, returning from patrol. By F.O.C.N.P. After leaving convoy on passage to patrol, on Patrol, While in Icelandic waters.

It should, for the present, be assumed that A.M.C's leave the convoy in 25° W.

4. All A.M.C's irrespective of their proper station, undergoing repair in U.K. will be administered by F.O.C.N.P.

5. The ships to join the Halifax Escort Force from the Northern Patrol are:-
CILICIA, WOLFE, CIRCASSIA, SALOPIAN, LETITIA, CALIFORNIA, DERBYSHIRE, WORCESTERSHIRE, CHESHIRE.

6. The ships to join the Freetown Escort Force are:- (a) CHITRAL from the Northern Patrol (b) COMORIN and VOLTAIRE from the Halifax Escort Force.

7. CHESHIRE will be in dockyard hands until 12/3 and CILICIA commences her refit in U.K. on 18/1.
(D.O.D.(H) 1011/11 to F.O.C.N.P. R.A. 3.B.S.

Australia.

MORESBY
MANORA
WESTRALIA.

MORESBY arrived Cairns 2344Z/9 MANOORA escorting TRIENZA left Nauru 0930Z/10 for Ocean Islands. WESTRALIA arrived Sydney 2042Z/10.
(A.C.N.B. 0620Z/11).

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.)

Raider Victims.

My 0631Z/26/12. (re survivors from captured ships and S.P. 02272(8) to S.P. 02272(9) believed to be in enemy hands). Following is precis of reports regarding disposal or otherwise of Merchant ships' books from HOLMWOOD, VINN, RANGITANE, TRIADIC, NOTOU, TURAKINA, RINGWOOD, TRIASTER, TRIONA. (also gives details of survivors still held prisoners from certain chips.
(A.C.N.B. 1000Z/11).

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FORTUNA. German merchant ship FORTUNA 2700 tons was expected to leave Gijon yesterday Friday.
(V.A.S. 1631/11 to S/M's Area B).

SPEZIA
BELLONA. 10/1 Departure German S.S. SPEZIA and BELLONA both for Marseilles.
(Valencia, 1540/11).

German steamers SPEZIA and BELLONA left Valencia 10/1 for Marseilles. Grey Hull, black funnels, name obliterated.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 2347/11).

Italian Merchant ships.

ALABAMA. My 2101/25/11 ALABAMA arrived Puerto Cabello.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 1819/11).

French Merchant Ships.

MENDOZA. French ship MENDOZA has arrived Montevideo.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 0800Z/11).

(A 1) French ship MENDOZA is carrying 15 French passengers from Buenos Aires for Marseilles.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2026Z/11 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Summary of Anti-Submarine Operations.

In amplification of my 1029/6 to N.C.S.Os. at Home, only, the following periodical summary of the anti U/Boat campaign is promulgated for the confidential information of masters of merchant vessels.

2. The tactics of U/Boats attacking convoys have been to attack on the surface at night relying on their small silhouette to avoid detection. These attacks appear to have reached their zenith in late October. In November there was a decline in the number of convoys attacked and the last attack on an (escorted) convoy (up to date) was made on the night of 5/12.

3. Since this date attacks have been confined to stragglers from convoy, ships that have dispersed from convoy or ships sailing independently giving loss of 25 ships.

4. There is no reason to suppose that attacks on escorted convoys have been given up but the circumstances in which some U/Boats have been lost may well have discouraged the enemy from this form of attack. Moreover it is hoped that the measures enumerated in paragraph 5 below may continue to reduce the number of attacks on convoys.

5. In an endeavour to give additional security to convoys the following measures have been taken:-

(a) Escorting convoys further west than hitherto.
(b) New forms of night dispositions of escorts and their tactics for dealing with night attacks.
(c) A wider degree of diversion of the routeing of convoys in order to obtain evasion.

6. In addition the U/Boat base at Lorient has had almost constant attention from the R.A.F.

7. A tendency has been noticed for the U/Boats to move their area of operations to the westward. During October-November this was to the Eastward of 15 degs. West. In the latter part of December the majority

/are

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Summary of Anti-Submarine Operations. (Contd.)

were operating in 20 degs. West. It may be that the healthy respect of U/Boats for air attack has driven them further westward. The situation at the present however, is fluid and it is difficult to forecast future movements.

8. The coloured flare used by merchant ships to indicate the side of the ship the torpedo hit has been abolished on account of the misleading information given when the wrong signal is used.

9. The provision of a small depth charge in the form of a projectile capable of being fired from a merchant vessel's L.A. armament is under consideration.
(D.T.D. 1641/11 to A.I.G. 47 and 48).

Ships attacked.

NALGORA (torpedoed 2/1).

One life-boat with 19 survivors of British NALGORA have arrived at Ponta Delgada Do Sol San Antonio, Cape Verde Islands. GONCALVES ZARCO proceeding to bring to St. Vincent. Three other life-boats with 79 of crew missing. I am sending Whaler POLAR V and SKUDD VI to search for these.
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent C.V. 1425/11).

RISANGER (torpedoed 27/12.)

Norwegian Tanker BELINDA arrived Capetown 10/1 1941 with entire crew and one motor life-boat of Norwegian RISANGER sunk by submarine 27/12 on 012 30'North 021 30' West, survivors included 24 Norwegians 4 British and one Finn. (2) Submarine fired torpedo(s) which exploded with great force and would have been sufficien to sink ship but 20 minutes later surface and fired 40/50 inaccurate rounds from gun. RISANGER was not zigzagging when torpedoed. (3) Submarine large type painted dark grey hull dark brown superstructure, probably Italian. (4) RISANGER's Code books weighted and thrown overboard. (5) Survivors will be landed at Capetown. Norwegian consul informed.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1006/11 to Admty, C.in S.A.)

ANASTASSIA.

Greek, 2883 tons, from Sydney N.S., over due at Belfast since 23/12, is now presumed lost. Italians claim she was sunk by submarine on 19/12 or 20/12.
(D.S. 495 12/1).

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1456. 55.20 N., 12° W. 275 Bloody Foreland 130', position indefinite. (D.S. 495).

1236. 55.30N., 21° W., 273° Bloody Foreland 440' position indefinite. (D.S. 495).

0730. 37.45 N., 20.10 E., 30'W. of Zante. (Mediterranean). Indefinite position of Italian U/Boat (D.S. 495).

2330. U/Boat estimated in position 047° N., 006° 30'W., at 2330/11. (V.A.S. 2356/11 to Submarines Area B).

South Atlantic. Your 1616/9. (report of Italian Submarines) Similar broadcast from Zeesen 1030/8 indicated that reference was to whole period of the war. (D.N.I. 1937/11 to C.in C. S.A.)

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.

In N.W.Approaches situation remains fluid and estimates are unreliable.

German. 3 may be within 150 miles radius from Rockall.
1 in about 55° 30'N., 21° W at 1236/1.
1 may be off S.W. Ireland.
1 arriving Lorient from S.W.
1 or possibly 2 in Cape de Verde Islands, or Freetown area.

Italian. 1 in Cape de Verde Islands Area.
1 about 46° N., 1° W. bound for Gironde.
1 may be within 60 miles radius of 54 30'N., 17° W.
1 may be within 60 miles radius of 59° 30' N., 16° 30'W.
(D.D.I.C. 1415/11).

Submarines Attacked.

At Brest, and by THUNDERBOLT. Your 0942/8. (Quotes Egyption press statement that Italian submarines in Brest were damaged or sunk by air attack).

/There

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines attacked. (Contd.)

At Brest and by THUNDERBOLT. (Contd.)

There is no confirmation that enemy submarines were either damaged or sunk during this R.A.F. attack. If this had been the case information would have been promulgated in Natel. Origin of Egyption press report quoted is being investigated at this end. Regret report of sinking of Italian submarine by THUNDERBOLT was not reported to you by Natel or other means. THUNDERBOLT'S report stated she attacked Italian U/Boat probably of ARGO class with torpedoes on 15/12 position 045° 25' North 001° 23' West. Sinking considered highly probable.
(D.N.I. 1938/11 to C.O.I.C. Alexandria).

Tiger

MOST SECRET

12.1.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Convoy W.S. 5 B.

A total of 21 ships sailed this morning from Belfast and Clyde.

British Air Activity

Aircraft of Bomber Command last night attacked TIRPITZ and the dock area at Wilhelmshaven. Other ports in Germany were also attacked. Results were not seen.

An aircraft of Coastal Command this afternoon obtained one hit on the stern of a 4600 ton merchant ship off Sogne Fiord. A 4000 ton ship was attacked off the Norwegian Coast this forenoon and is believed to have been hit.

Beaufort aircraft attacked Lorient late this evening.

Enemy Air Activity

EMERALD was attacked this evening off Lands End. No damage is reported.

A single enemy aircraft raided Plymouth on two occasions this evening. No naval damage or casualties occurred.

Mining

Enemy Minelaying

The recrudescence of heavy enemy mine laying, which apparently commenced on the night 10/11 Jan., when it is estimated that 25 minelaying aircraft were employed, appears to have continued on the same scale last night.

/Barry. ....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Barry and Bristol Channel ports were closed again this morning, and after being opened this afternoon for a few hours they were closed once more after SS TIJUCA (Norwegian) had been damaged (this ship was taken into Barry Docks) Swansea was closed late this evening owing to suspected minelaying.

Plymouth was reopened this morning after being swept; one mine was detonated off the breakwater.

Preston was closed this morning. Fishing trawler STRATHRYE was sunk at 2010 off Liverpool and the port was closed.

Normal traffic was resumed to Southend this morning. A mine was detonated off Yarmouth.

Milford Haven was reopened this afternoon subject to local restrictions; two mines were detonated off St. Anne's Head.

ADVENTURE last night laid mines in St. Georges Channel.

Operation Z M E 14 R.A.F. Minelaying — Minelaying by Bomber Command aircraft off the north coast of Germany continued last night.

North Atlantic

Force H. — S.O. Force H has only 4 destroyers of the 8th and 13th Flotillas available for his force and all local duties, and one of the four has a gun out of action.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

As FORMIDABLE is to join the Mediterranean Fleet, F.O.Force K, is to transfer his flag to a cruiser.

When additional A/S forces are available C. in C., South Atlantic is considering using Bathurst for fuel and other facilities in order to give these vessels further radius to northward.

Mediterranean

Air Operations

10 Italian aircraft approached Malta this morning but no raid developed.

Benghazi, Derna Barracks, Benina and Berka aerodromes were successfully bombed last night.

Wellingtons attacked Catania aerodrome heavily last night. At least 9 aircraft were seen to have been destroyed. Photographs taken today showed a number of aircraft, probably German.

Operation "Excess"

The M.T. ships arrived at Piraeus about noon today.

East Indies

PARRAMATTA was bombed again today, but was not damaged.

Convoy U.S. 8 (5 ships with troops for Middle East) arrived at Colombo this morning escorted by CANBERRA.

French Merchant Shipping

MENDOZA sailed from Montevideoat 2225 G.M.T. today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 1130/12 (D.C. 1202/12) At 2330 (D.C. 2307/12)

Portland Defence — Since 2795/07/252 of 18/12 further serious deterioration in A/S defence has occurred Request repair ship may be detailed as soon as possible. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1310/12)

Movements

KENYA — After junction with REVENGE and A/S escort KENYA is to proceed independently at best speed to Clyde through position 60° N., 12° W. (C. in C., W.A., 0001/12 to C.S. 10)

My 0001/12. If fuel permits KENYA proceed direct to Plymouth so as to arrive 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2. miles at 1030 on day of arrival. (C. in C., W.A., 1331/12 to C.S. 10.)

Allocation of Town Class Destroyers — My 1053/15/10. Allocation of BRIGHTON to Liverpool is cancelled. BRIGHTON and LANCASTER will relieve BATH and ST. ALBANS with R.A.M.L. BATH and ST ALBANS will be taken in hand for stage 11 and ballasting at Chatham and will be turned over to Norwegians and allocated to Liverpool for 5th 6th 7th or 8th escort groups.
My 1504/23/12 VOLUNTEER will relieve WIVERN about 17/1. VANOC will relieve WILD SWAN about 27/1. (C. in C., W.A., 1103/12)

REVENGE — To keep North of O.B. 271 proceed through 62° 05' N., 12° W. Thence through Minches. (C. in C., W.A., 1317/12)

VALOROUS SOUTHDOWN — My 1017 VALOROUS proceed to Sheerness by Q.Z.S. 195 and 185 awaiting SOUTHDOWN by East Canna Buoy and entering Medway Channel astern of SOUTHDOWN. SOUTHDOWN due East Canna about 1500. Sweepers will sweep ahead SOUTHDOWN from Medway Gate to Garrison Point. (C. in C., Nore, 1347/12)

Northern Patrol — Movements of various A.M.C's (F.O.C.N.P. 1454/12)

Trawler Lines Tonight. — 2 Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1526/12)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

B.C.S. One Sweep	Expect A/S air escort one Sunderland about 1000/12. (C. in C., Rosyth 0138/12 to R.A. 1 B.C.S.)
	My 1545/12 HOOD and REPULSE screened by SOMALI, BEDOUIN, TARTAR, ESKIMO, ESCAPADE, ECLIPSE arriving Dunnet Head 0001/13 Monday from West. Proceed as necessary to R/V with HOOD off Dunnet Head at that time. (R.A. (D) 2105/12 to ECHO)
HOOD RODNEY	HOOD is to proceed direct to Rosyth so as to arrive at Number 14 buoy at a5a5/13. R.A. (D) Home Fleet to provide three destroyers to screen HOOD to Rosyth and subsequently form screen for RODNEY returning to Scapa. Destroyers joining the screen from Scapa to have steam one hour's notice by 2200/12. F.O.C. One B.C.S. to report time and position of rendezvous for new screen for HOOD. (C. in C., H.F., 1240/12)
	E.T.A. Scapa in HOOD with REPULSE, EDINBURGH, BIRMINGHAM and 6 destroyers 0001/13. C. in C., 1240/12 fresh screen to rendezvous 0001/13 off Dunnet Head. Request following lights. E.T.A. May Island 1240/13. C. in C., Rosyth requested to arrange fighter protection and A/S air escort for 13/1. (F.O.C. 1 B.S. 1651/12)
Western Channel Patrol	Return to Plymouth arriving 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 1030/12. (C. in C., W.A., 0843/12 to KASHMIR)
	Start Point Light is to shown full brilliancy tonight/12 from 1900-2200. (C. in C., W.A., 1651/12)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

TRIDENT — 24 hours delay. Request R.V. be arranged at the same time on 14th advanced 20 miles further North. C. in C., W.A., pass to Fr. Sloop LA MOQUESE (TRIDENT, 0453/12 to Capt. (S) 2)

TAKU
TALISMAN
CUTTY SARK — Orders TAKU escorted by CUTTY SARK for to patrol CUTTY SARK to R.V. with TALISMAN and escort her to Clyde. Details. (S.2. 0921/12)

TRIDENT
LA MOQUESE
Movements — Amending his 1627/10. (S.2. 1141/12)

Positions
At 0800/13. — And movements for the following 24 hours. (V.A.S. 1719/12)

British Air Activity

Patrols — Today Sunday (C. in C., Rosyth, 0814/12)

S.B.R. — OPS/87 12/1. Submarine bombing restrictions. (H.Q.C.C. 1128/12)

Lorient
to be Attacked — AP/754 12/1. Available aircraft No 217 Sqdn. tonight submarines and Naval Dockyard Lorient with Magnums. (H.Q.C.C. 1150/12)

Cruiser at Brest
to be Attacked — AP/753 12/1. Available aircraft Nos 53 and 59 Sqdns to attack tonight cruiser in dry dock at Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1151/12)

C.C.Narrative — 1700-2300 (H.Q.C.C. 2300/12

/Bomber Command....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Bomber Command Intelligence Summary 641, 0001 to 1200 hours, 12/1.
Summary of Operations.
1. Night 11/12 January. 16 Wellingtons attacked Royal Arsenal and the Riv Ballbearing Factory at Turin, a military objective on the River Po south of Turin, Naval Dockyard and docks at Wilhelmshaven, Docks at Bremen, and a Military objective on the Embankment of the Ems River at MFGP 1823. At Turin two direct hits on S.W. Corner of target observed causing a large blue green explosion also several bluish explosions from incendiaries which continued intermittently for twenty minutes. At Wilhelmshaven incendiaries caused yellowfire and red explosions. 22 Hampdens attacked naval base and dockyards in Verbindungs Hafen and Naval Dockyard at Wilhelmshaven, oil stocks and docks at Bremen, concentration of shipping twenty miles N. of Emden, two merchant vessels at MFGP 3540, a stationary merchant vessel N. of Kiel, and a small ship six miles ENE of Kiel, also AA concentrations at Bremen, and Wangerroog. At Wilhelmshaven two bursts were seen at S.W. corner and two on Southern Edge of Bauhafen and other bursts in the Naval Dockyards. Five Hampdens successfully laid mines. For results see summary of bombing results No 641.

Ship Movements.
Night 11/12. Delfzijl approximately ten miles N. 0600 hrs. 500 ft. four merchant vessels about 6000 tons each stationary, also one destroyer steaming north. (H.Q.,B.C., T.H.I. 1625/12)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

A/C shot down by SEAMAN — Arrived SEAMAN with three German Air Force Prisoners. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0930/12, 1022/12)

ADVENTURE — Whilst on north westerly course near Smalls at 2015/11, preparatory to operation Z.M.E. 14 ADVENTURE was machine gunned by single hostile aircraft a few hits were scored. No material damage or casualties. (ADVENTURE 1520/12)

EMERALD Attacked — Have been attacked by Enemy Aircraft. My position 049° 51' N., 5° 22' W., (EMERALD 1955Z/12)

Keep destroyers with you as long as necessary. (C. in C., W.A., 2043/12 to EMERALD)

Mining

Barry & Bristol Channel Ports — Barry and Bristol Channel Ports to the Eastwards are closed owing to suspected mine laying. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff, 0955/12)

My 0955/12 these ports are now open. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff 1531/12)

Owing to suspected minelaying Barry and Bristol Channel ports to the Eastward are closed. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1952/12)

Operation B.S. 49 — B.S. 49. Weather permitting escort of three Blenheims will meet you N.E. of Humber L.V. at 0845/13. They will accompany you till 1500. Report if protection is desired after that time. (C. in C., Nore, 1000/12 to S.O.M/L Immingham)

Operation B.S. 49. All times in my 0952/11 to be three hours later owing to late arrival of testing apparatus. (S.O. M/L Immingham 2059/12)

SS BERTA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

SS BERTA Sunk

Press reports Swedish Steamer BERTA 1215 tons sunk by mine in Sound near Copenhagen 11/1 (N.A.Stockholm 1007/12)

Thames

Normal traffic is now resumed to Southend Instructions for ships anchoring. (F.O.I.C., London, 1015/12)

Operation by CACHALOT

V.A.S. 1046/12 See Operation Volume

Plymouth

Enemy aircraft dropped 3 mines in Approaches to Plymouth about 2030/11. Channel has been swept and port is open. (C. in C., W.A., 1048/12)

Cancel my 2204/11. Port of Plymouth is open. (C. in C., W.A., 1051/12)

One Red Mine detonated 1106 breakwater light 257° 11.7 cables. (C. in C., W.A., 1620/12)

Preston

1100/12 Port of Preston closed due to mine laying. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 1305/12)

Operation by SEALION

V.A.S. 1044/12 See Operations Volume.

Yarmouth

LL Drifter detonated magnetic mine in position 7 cables 188° N.W. Seroky Buoy at 1205 today. (F.O.I.C., Yarmouth, 1335/12, 1350/12)

Milford Haven

My 1920/11 Port is open subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C., Milford Haven 1400/12)

Mine report. Red mine detonated by single L in position 150° St. Anne's Head Light 5.3 cables. Red mine detonated by Babe double L in position 061° St Anne's Head Light 19 cables. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1903/12)

/Southampton....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Southampton

O.M. laying operations completed. (O.C.O.M. Southampton, 1451/12)

Harwich

Fleet sweepers have searched area as follows. One German mine cut in position 51° 47' 30" N., 1° 43' 15" E. One mine exploded in sweep in position 51° 48' 48" N 01° 43' 54" E., explosive float found in position 51° 48.8' N., 01° 42.7' E.

ORIOLE Sunk 11/1

My 2130/11 I have nothing to add after interviewing Skipper of Trawler MANX KING (N.O.I.C., Faeroes 1730/12)

Sweeping Loch Ewe, Orkneys

Your 1849/10 and 1509/11. After completing clearance sweep of the Approahes to Loch EWEaand all anchorages likely to be used LL sweeps are unless otherwise ordered to return to Scapa. Further sweeping should also be carried out along the north shore in the direction of Rudh re up to the 20 fathom line. (A.C.O.S. 1740/12 to N.O.I.C. Aultben)

Faeroes-Iceland Minefield

C. in C., H.F. 1937/12 See Operations Volume.

SS TIJUCA

51 23 20 N 3 03 10 W. TIJUCA (Norwegian) mined. Barry A and ports to eastward closed incoming traffic ordered to anchor west of Breaksea L.V. (F.O.I.C.Cardiff 2150/12)

My 2150/12 SS TIJUCA has been taken into Barry Docks. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2220/12)

Swansea

Port of Swansea closed owing to suspected mine-laying. (F.O.I.C., ?219/12)

Liverpool

Port of Liverpool closed due to mining by E/A. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 2208/12)

Mine report 1800/12. One mine detonated by LL sweep 53° 34' 54" N., 3° 32' 14" W. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 2243/12)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

2 M/S

39 W Hd. from Aircraft 144 Squadron DutyQ 2 minesweepers bearing 090 distance 5 miles course 030 position TLBC0000 T.O.R. 1134. (Nore 1100/12)

5 M/V's

Following received 30 W Hd from A/C 144 Squadron duty Q. 5 merchant vessels bearing 090 15 miles Course 030 position T L R C (Nore W/T 1105/12)

Reference 1105 4 Merchant Vessels Course 243 6 knots. (Nore W/T 1145/12)

TORONTO
ARFIN
JARL

Concerning Norway.
(1) Reported Wilhelmsen motor vessel TORONTO fitting out as auxiliary cruiser Akers Yard Oslo. German pressing for completion March 1st but understand Norwegian workers trying to delay. C. 2.
(2) ARFIN JARK which was sunk at Agero off Agersund in Finland in 7 metres when bound for North Norway is now being salved C. 3. (N.A.Stockholm 1606/11)

16 S/M's in Bordeaux

Pru Sortie H/581 1150/12 shows in Bordeaux 16 submarines in Bassin afloat and dry docks being decrease of two since 3/1/41 (Pru Bendon) (1855/12)

MOST SECRET.

12.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

OTTAWA
CHURCHILL.

My 0430/12. OTTAWA did not sail owing to shortage of crew caused by influenza. CHURCHILL unable to sail owing to condenser defects.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0434/12).

BENMOHR
EAST WALES
in collision
10/1.

Your 1941/11. tHave been unable to overtake CAMPANULA and damaged ship.
(T.A.E. at Bar 1645. GARDENIA 0701/12).

S.L.60. BENMOHR arrived Kames Bay drawing 40 ft. aft, EAST WALES cruising round unable pass Boom until tomorrow anchor Flukoa Gone. Both ships for Oban and have been in collision. Mails saved. No casualties.
(N.C.S.O.Oban, 1710/12).

EMPIRE
CONFIDENCE.

WHITETHORN escorted EMPIRE CONFIDENCE to Reykjavik from position 064° N., 024° W. Engine disabled.
(F.O.Iceland 0920/12).

SAN TOOY
A.T. K 48.

Your 1617/11 (? 1657/11 intended) to F.O. Iceland only. Following is a repetition of my 1725/9. Icelandic manned trawler SAN TOOY G G 65, registered in Sweden, arrived Reykjavik from Fleetwood P.M./8 States damaged by armed trawler K.48 whilst latter attempted to come alongside at 0730/6 in approx. 060° N., 015° W. Request confirmation 1725/9 Ends. Minor damage to bows sustained by SAN TOOY.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland 1000/12).

ULSTER
MONARCH.

Time required to complete renewal D G coils 14 days. Request early confirmation that ship can be made available to carry out the work.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1112/12).

F.O.I.C Greenock's 1110/12 and F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 1112/12. It is important that programme for ULSTER MONARCH in my 1838/10 should be adhered to if possible. Temporary repairs should therefore be carried out.
(A.D.O.D.(C.O.) 1803/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

FORESIGHT. Re sailing.
(D.O.D.(H) 1131/12).

GALATEA. Delayed by defects.
Expected date of sailing is now 19th January
(C.in C. Nore 1400/12).

DERBYSHIRE
CIRCASSIA. DERBYSHIRE will arrive Clyde 18/1 and CIRCASSIA about 22/1. Request they may be taken in hand for refit on arrival prior to being sailed for patrol and Halifax.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1450/12).

MOOLTAN. Representatives of D. of S.T. owners and fitting contractors will attend on board MOOLTAN at 10/13 to facilitate decision as to her future employment.
(D. of S.T. 2325/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

M/V's entering Loch Ewe.

My 1749/11. Merchant vessels entering Loch Ewe (instructions).
(D.T.D. 1605/12 to A.I.G. 47 and 48).

Coastal Convoys.

F.S.84.
W.N.67.

Arrived all ships. (N.C.S.O.Thames 0758/12)
W.N.67 000° Dunnet Head 4 miles at 1000.
(A.C.O.S. 1003/12).

Scapa Departure 0900 CURACOA and JASON to escort Convoy W.N.67 MONTGOMERY for Liverpool.
(A.C.O.S. 1020/12).

E.T.A. 057° 50' at 2000/12.
(STELLA POLARIS 1110/12 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Scapa arrivals:- PASS OF BALATER. From W.N.67. Departures:- Montgomery 0908 POOL FISHER with W.N.67. THIRLMERE for Aberdeen.
(A.C.O.S. 1850/12).

C.E.22.

Request sail HAWFINCH and COALTIT R/V with C.E.22 off Elbow Buoy for onward passage to destination.
(C.in C. Nore 1220/12 to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate).

F.S.86.

Departure F.S.86. COLUMBINE for Tyne.
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1450/12).

E.N.56.
W.N.69.

Act as additional A/A escort to E.N.56 sailing at 2200/13 after passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa A.C.O.S. requested to sail FOWEY to join W.N.69 due Duncansby Head 1330/16.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1533/12 to FOWEY).

2200/13. Additional escort FOWEY. 25 ships. Code words.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1821/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N. F.S. Convoys.

Movements to noon/13. PRIMULA from Harwich to join F.S.65 for onward passage to Thames. F.N.81 due Flamborough Head 2100/12.
F.N.82 due Outer Dowsing 0630/13.
F.S. 85 due Aldeburgh 0600/13.
F.S. 86 due Flamborough Head 1200/13.
(C.in C. Nore 1200/12).

F.N.81.

Ships to join.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1632/12).

W.N.67.)
E.N.55.)
E.N.81.)
F.S.86.)

Movements tonight 12/13. W.N.67 Buchan Ness 2330/12 CURACAO parts company and returns to Scapa.
E.N.55 off Buckie 2200/12.
F.N.81 Whitby 2200/12.
F.S.86 Berwick 2000/12.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1536/12 amended).
1800/12

8 M/V's.

Portsmouth Night Movements.
8 M/V's escorted by 2 A/S Trawlers Dartmouth to Needles.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1443/12).

O.B.273.

Sailed 0330/13. Escort LADY LILLIAN.
10 ships. (details (N.C.S.O. Oban 0929/13) N.C.S.O. Mersey 1229/12).
Sailed 2150/12 Ships. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 2230/12).

Ocean Convoys.

H.G.49.
ANTHONY.

If not in contact rejoin your convoy before dark.
(C.in C. W.A. 1319/12 to ANTHONY).

H.G.52.

Estimated 1 00/19 ROCHESTER will bring back H.G.52 detailed orders will be issued by F.O.C.N.A.Station.
(C.in C. W.A. 1939/11 to ROCHESTER).

MOST SECRET.

12.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X.100. My 1613/8. ALNMOOR destination Glasgow. (D.T.D. 1059/12).

H.X.101.
S.C.18. Convoy sailing telegram as amended by Adty. (D.T.D. 1621/12).
Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 2327/12).
Route (D.T.D. 1332/12).

Halifax convoys H.X.104. My 2232/4. It is understood that you consider escort position has not yet eased sufficiently to commence use of Iceland for refuelling escorts. H.X.104 will be routed by Northerly route as arranged but it is at your discretion whether the Iceland Scheme or normal arrangements as in my 1916/4 is used for this convoy.
(D.T.D. 1622/12 to C.in C. W.A.)
H.X.104. Route. (D.T.D. 1342/12).

Troop Convoys.

W.S.5.B. Sailed Clyde portion of convoy W.S.5.B. escorted by RAMILLIES, PHOEBE, FEARLESS, WATCHMAN, BEAGLE, BRILLIANT french Light Cruiser LEOPOLD in accordance with my 1110/11 as amended by my 2329/11.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0430/12 to Admiralty).

F.O.Greenock 1110/11 and 2329/11 latter not to all addressees. Sailed 10 liners with C.S.15 AUSTRALIA, VANSITTART, LINCOLN, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER.
(F.O.Belfast 0625/12 to Admty.)

W.S.5.B. and DUCHESS OR YORK sailed 0400/12. (P.S.T.O.Clyde 0900/12 to D. of S.T.)

My 2340/31 cancel lettered positions B one. B two and C. Alter course in position 56° 35'N., 09° 00' W., to new position C. (Position).
(D.O.D.(H) 1201/12 to C.S.15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Intend sailing EMERALD at 1630/12 to join W.S.5.B. in (position) passing between Lands End and Scilly Isles and through 050° 30' N., 010° W.
(C.in C. W.A. 1251/12 to C.S.15).

Sailed CHURCHILL to join convoy W.S.5.B.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1550/12 to Adty).

Sailed 1630 EMERALD to R/V with W.S.5.B.
(C.in C. W.A. 1721/12 to Adty).

My position course and speed FH 049° 54'N., 5° 30'W 290° 22 knots.
(EMERALD 1944Z/12 to JERSEY).

MOST SECRET.

12. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

M.V. Escorted. Gibraltar 1025/12 French Armed Trawler LA TOULOUNAISE escorting French Merchant Ship SAGITTAIRE with Army Lorries passed from Eastward to Westward.(S.O.I.Gib., 1141/12, to Admty etc.)

North Atlantic.

OLYMPUS. My 1558/10. OLYMPUS still on patrol. (F.O.C.N.A.,1158/12.)

Force H. Destroyers. Number of destroyers of 8th D/F and 13th D/F now available for Force H and all local duties is 4 of which one has one gun out of action. 2 more should be available in 7 days. State of remainder as follows:- (a)4at Freetown.(b) One (? in) U.K.(c) One having condensers retubed by RESOLUTION. Completes 26/1. (d) One refitting completes 27/1. (C.O. Force H, 1512/12. to Admty.)

Ammunition. Your 1401/11. Following at Gibraltar (details.) (F.O.C.N.A. 1616/12 to Admty.)

Convoy. W.S.5.B. My 2341/31 - paras. 2 and 6. FORESIGHT has again been delayed sailing and cannot join W S 5 B. PHOEBE is therefore to continue with FEARLESS escorting CAPETOWN CASTLE and MONARCH OF BERMUDA until relieved by a Destroyer from Gibraltar. F.O.C. North Atlantic is requested to sail one destroyer to relieve PHOEBE (position) about 1200 B.S.T./16. PHOEBE is then to return to Scapa. 2250/12 to F.O.C.N.A. C.S.15., PHOEBE) (D.O.D.(F).

South Atlantic.

CUSTODIAN. Overdue shipping. My 1815/9. CUSTODIAN arrived Capetown.(C.O.1. Capetown, 1045/12.)

/ROXANE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12. 1. 1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ROXANE. Overdue shipping ROXANE due Capetown 8/1 from Aden not arrived. (G.O.I. Capetown, 1143/12.)

Shipping in 20°n. Southbound ships crossing 20 degs. N, Paragraph 1, for Plate, ST. MERRIEL, 9 knots, Paragraph 2 for Cape.TYNEBANK, 10 knots, GLENAPP, 9 knots, (Routes.) (i) 05 degs. 00' N. 21 degs. 00' W. (j) Equator 11 degs. 00' W..(D.T.D. 1214/12. to S.A. Station.)

Force K. Sweep, Shipping positions. Your 0120/6. para.(b) (1).
(i) Normal broadcasting of full details of all sailings is not done on account of over loading coding and W/T.
(ii) Before sailing warships are supplied with information of all ships on plot that they might expect to encounter.
(iii) This information is supplemented by signal giving details of sailing, subsequent warships departures, or of ships likely to be encountered.
(iv) During operation such as present full details of ships movements that apply will be given.(C. in C.S.A., 1415N/12. to Admty.)

CORNWALL. Your 1316/9, para. C. CORNWALL belongs to South Atlantic Station. Request whether intention is that CORNWALL shall remain on S.A. Station or join E.I. Station. (C. in C. S.A.,1553/12. to Admty.)

FURIOUS, NEPTUNE, ISIS and ENCOUNTER. Arrived 1430/12.
(G.O.I. Freetown, 1617z/12.)

Force T. Your 1741/10, It is important that Force "T" should start operations as early as possible. The delay necessitated by repairs to D.G. equipment cannot therefore be accepted. (D.O.D.(F.) 1749/12 to C. in C. S.A.

/FORMIDABLE.....

MOST SECRET.

12. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

FORMIDABLE to replace. ILLUSTRIOUS.

Owing to damage to ILLUSTRIOUS it has been decided that FORMIDABLE must join Mediterranean Fleet forthwith. FORMIDABLE and one cruiser from Force K are, therefore, to be detached from their present sweep about 15/1, and proceed to the Cape making good 18 knots. Date of arrival Alexandria. Important that the escorting cruiser should return to South Atlantic as early as possible. She should be turned back at Aden if C. in C. E.I. can provide onward escort, if not she should be turned back at Suez. F.O. Force K is to transfer his flag to this cruiser as convenient before she parts company with FORMIDABLE. The other cruiser of Force K is to continue to operate under C. in C. S.A. (D.T.D.(F) 1910/12 to C. in C.S.A.

A/S Vessels. use of Bathurst for fuel.

F.O.C. North Atlantic's 1050/8/1. Remarks on possibility of submarines fuelling at Sal and of Italian air reconnaissance. When additional A/S forces available am considering using Bathurst for fuel and other facilities in order to give A/S vessels further radius to northward. (C.W.C.S.A.,1913/12. to Admty.)

Mediterranean

Operation. M. C. 6. cancelled Movements.

My 1231/9. Operation M.C.6. cancelled Following movements now in progress.
A. WARSPITE, VALIANT, GLOUCESTER, returning to Alexandria expected time of arrival e.m./13B. BARHAM, EAGLE, YORK, 7th C.S. proceeding Suda Bay to fuel tonight 12/1.
C. V.A.L.F. in ORION with PERTH proceed thence to Piraeus, embark military and R.A.F. for Malta, thence to Malta to arrive dawn 14th, embark passengers ex BONAVENTURE and sail for Alexandria at dusk 14th.
D. Remaining force under F.O.C. 1st. B.S. to make a feint to westward in daylight 13th, then to deliver F.A.A. attack on Dodecanese night 13/14th, then east to westward again with V.A.L.F. at daylight on 15th.

/E. After.....

MOST SECRET.

12. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Operation. M. C. 6. cancelled, movements. - Contd.

E. After joining V.A.L.F. whole force returns to Alexandria except YORK and 4 destroyers to remain in Aegean for convoy and covering duties. (C. in C. Med. 1031/12. to Admty.)

BONAVENTURE JAGUAR.

Intend to defer sailing of BONAVENTURE and JAGUAR until P.M. 19th or 20th so that they can leave at dusk and get well past Pantellaria by moonrise. In view of BONAVENTURE's shortage of ammunition it is for consideration that Force H should come eastward in support. (C. in C. Med. 1041/12, to Admty.)

Your 1041/12. RENOWN. ARK ROYAL and SHEFFIELD with 5 destroyers will be available if passage of Narrows post-poned till night 21/22, otherwise 4 destroyers. (S.O.Force H. 1915/12. to C. in C. Med.)

Greeks. P/V. Equipment.

B.N.A.Athens 1930/5. Ships will require a hinge boom or other form of (corrupt group) to w. This paravane equipment not available on Mediterranean Station. Consider Greeks should be supplied with this equipment if can be spared. (C. in C. Med. 1107/12. to Admty.)

Air Attacks in Tobruk.

Benghazi.

H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. Operational Summary, No. 216 up to 1200 hours 12/1/1941. Day 10/I. 3 Blenheims dropped 3,000 lbs, of bombs on Tobruk one falling very near ø the remainder in centre of town. (SAN GIORGIOø). Night 10/11 Jan. One Wellington dropped 2500 lbs. of bombs on Benghazi, harbour starting one fire on the jetty. (H.Q.R.A.F., M.E., 1133/12.)

Air Report, Benina and Berka, Raids. Bomber Seaplane. Base deserted.

(Night 10-11/1.)
Day 11/1. No bombing operations. Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols westward of Tobruk throughout the day without encountering enemy aircraft. The seaplane base at Bomba has apparently been deserted by the enemy. Military situation at Tobruk unchanged. 2. Greece.
Day 11/1. No bombing operations. 1 Sunderland patrolled the south eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1137/12.)

/Shipments.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean -Contd.

Shipments to Greece, PORT WYNDHAM.

In addition to personnel, shipping is most urgently required for 84 vehicles and 100 tons of equipment Egypt to Greece 16/1. Propose to allocate PORT WYNDHAM for this service, do you concur? She will not be used for P.O.W. my 1342/11. refers.(S.S.T.O., Egypt, 1255/12 to D. of S.S.)

ILLUSTRIOUS damage, GALLANT, repairs.

ILLUSTRIOUS is flooded aft and divers are plugging hole with wood. When complete it is hoped to pump her out and get at flooded compartment to ascertain damage. Rudder and propellers appear undamaged. 1 compartment forward is flooded and holes are being patched and welded. Same will be done aft when holes get above water. All petrol has been removed. GALLANT is being repaired sufficiently to float and so release dock for further commitment which can then be met.(M.A.Malta, 1317/12.)

U/B. Oxia Island.

Capt. (3) 1, 1355/12. See U-Boat CAMPAIGN.

Turin.

Raid by Bomber Command, night of 11-12/1. (See Home Commands, British Air Activity.)

Malta Air Report.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 12/1. 1045 - 1328 Glenn Martin recco Augusta and Catania. Augusta Harbour 15 seaplanes no shipping. Catania harbour no shipping.18 fighters and 18 bombers seen dispersed probably more, 0723 - 0738 10 Macchi 200's approached from N.E. at 15,000 feet came to within sight of Grand Harbour, and withdrew north. 4 Hurricanes and 3 Fulmars up but no interceptions. No naval or military items. (H.Q.R.A.F., Med., 1720/12, amended 0024/13.)

/Shipment.....

MOST SECRET.

12. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean contd.

Shipment of Phosphates. iron ore and Toluene to Italy from Africa.

Following information received (graded B.1.) from French Army Reserve Officer recently arrived from Tunis. The anticipated delivery to Axis powers from Tunisian mines are by means of phosphat Monthly shipments of 80,000 tons to Italy and 58,000 tons to Germany anticipated. Shipments will be made through Sfax, Sousse and Tunis. Shipments also include Algerian phosphates delivered from Lone. Exports already begun (starte about 1½ months ago.). Generally ships o several tonnages, and morale of crews i not very high. Shipments for Germany and Italy all go through Italy and only Italian ships are used. Care must be taken because French vessels also load phosphates at Sfax and Sousse destined for France. (b) Iron 30,000 tons Iron Ore are anticipated for Italy but not within any fixed period. This iron will be shipped principally from Tunis also possibly from Bizerta. Transport will be made by Italian ships. No iron shipments yet made. (c) Toluene, 4000 tons of this product used in manufacture of explosives have arrived from Morocco and are to be shipped to Italy. This product at present stocked at La Goulette, South (?jetty) awaiting a ship. Will not leave for another fifteen days or three weeks. (S.O.I., Malta, 2359/12, to Admty.)

East Indies.

PARAMATTA. bombed.

My 1922/11. PARAMATTA bombed again, no damage. Cable Ship RETRIEVER in company. (C. in C.E.I, 0236Z/12, to Admty etc.)

U.S.8.

Colombo arrival 0445Z/12, CANBERRA escorting convoy U.S. 8. (S.O.I, Colombo, 0454/12.)

RANCHI patrol.

RANCHI is to leave Durban 15/1 and escort SELANDIA as far as 022° 30' south (ii) RANCHI is then to patrol at 15 knots between (b) 022° 30' s. 040° e. and (a) (?030°) s. 035° e. (iii) RANCHI is to clean boilers on return to Durban from patrol about 24/1. (C. in C.E.I., 0742Z/12. to RANCHI.)

/SHROPSHIRE .....

MOST SECRET.

12. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

SHROPSHIRE. My 1118/S SHROPSHIRE is to leave patrol so as to arrive Durban p.m./15. (2) SHROPSHIRE'S 1029/9 approved to take work in hand at 8 hours'notice on return to Durban. (C. in C.E.I., 08024/12. to SHROPSHIRE.)

QUEEN MARY AQUITANIA. Intend sailing QUEEN MARY and AQUITANIA to Fremantle on completion of transhipment. (C. in C.E.I., 15122/12. to A.C.N.B.)

Air Report. Summary No. 214 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 12/1.(1)1000 pounds bombs dropped in medium level attacks on lorries at Sheikh and jetty at Berbera.Both targets missed. Lorries machine gunned. Negligible AA Berbera. (111) 3 Blenheims 203 Sqdn. provided Fighter escorts for Convoy B N 12½ using advanced base Kamaran one remaining overnight. (1v) PARRAMATTA on Perim patrol reports bombing attacks 1827 and 1906 11/1. Perim reports 11 bombs in sea and 5 on land causing no damage or casualties. All times G.M.T. (Air H.Q. Aden, 2107/12.)

Berbera Bombed

Convoy Escort

PARRAMATTA and Perim Bombed

China.

Operation. British Ambassador Tokyo's No. 38 to Foreign Office. Operation not practicable with my present force of two D class cruisers of very limited endurance. (C. in C. China, 03292/12.)

Thailand, Indo-China. Development of tension between. Possible intervention by Japan. Remarks and suggestions. (C. in C. Far East to Air Ministry, 0427/12.) See Operations Vol.

America & West Indies

DIOMEDE. 486. Leave Bermuda p.m./13 and patrol Southern half of squares F 30 A and F 30 B. Leave patrol so as to arrive Bermuda p.m./18.(C. in C. A.W.I.,1022/12 to DIOMEDE.)

/Rocket.....

MOST SECRET.

12. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

Rocket Defence Air Attack.

Adty. General message 672. A, 5/1, Re P.A.C. Rockets defence against low level bombing I have received no previous information regarding the introduction of this device. Request details may be communicated, also details of any other A/A weapon of this sort other than the U.P. of which I have full information. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1056/12 to Admty.)

U.S. Draft Lease of Base.

His views. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1121/12, to Admty.

PORT TOWNSVILLE.

British Motor Vessel PORT TOWNSVILLE ashore near Portland Point, Jamaica, Patrol Vessels HAUKEN and DOUGLAS ALEXANDER standing by and endeavouring to render assistance.(N.O.I.C. Kingston 1850/12. to Admty.)

Australia.

MANOORA
TRIENZA.

MANOORA arrived Ocean Is. 0156Z/11 escorting TRIENZA.(A.C.N.B., 0245Z/12.)

Raider Intelligence.
NARVIK,
TOKYO,
MARU,
MANYO
MARU.

Your cable 9/1. (One and (Two) NARVIK at no time carried name,flew a flag or wore any Japanese or other markings. Nor did she resemble in lines, general colour scheme any Japanese ship. (B one) TOKYO and MANYO MARU, lines in general colouring resembled Japanese ships accurately to deceive officers at short range. (A one.) TOKYO MARU supply and decoy ship no guns, wore Japanese flags painted on side abreast of fore mast and fore-end of bridge structure and also name painted bows and stern in English, port of registry Osaka. None of these covered at any time although ships stood by in all attacks and decoyed TRIONA by visual distress signals.(B. one) MANYO MARU wore Japanese flags painted on sides abreast of funnel and fore mast and on tarpaulin covering numbers two and three hatches. Name in English with Japanese above on each bow and stern port of registry Tokyo, (A. one) Names not covered during any attack. (B.2.) German flag flown at outside of HOLMWOOD, RANGITANE.(B.I.) Not observed during attacks on other ships. Painted Japanese flags on sides abreast of funnel not covered HOLMWOOD, RANGITANE, TRIADIC, VIMNI attacks.

/B.I. Nazi.....

MOST SECRET.

12. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia Contd.

Raider
Intelligence
NARVIK,
TOKYO.
MARU.
MANYO-MARU.

(B.I.) Nazi flag painted on canvas dropped over Japanese flag during recovery of boats of TRIADIC RANGITANE and during attack on KOMATA. (A.I.)
(3) Captains of RANGITANE, HOLMWOOD, and Japanese officer on the bridge TOKYO MARU. No confirmation one seen MANYO MARU. None seen in NARVIK. General remarks. Engineers who did some work in the MANYO MARU consider certain welding and painting Japanese.(C.3.) NARVIK not MANYO and TOKYO MARU North of the Equator on 10/10 and took large quantity of stores all with Japanese markings from latter. All three ships departed southerly course 12/10,(C.2), and attacked RINGWOOD west of Nauru on 15/10. All stores except certain medical in TOKYO and MANYO MARU of Japanese origin. (B. one.) Certain German officers stated raiders mail reached them in Japan. (B. one.) TOKYO MARU was in Kobe April 1940.(B. two) And probably as late as August (C. three.) (A.C.N.B., 1300Z/12, to N.A. Tokyo.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ANNELIESE ESSBERGER — Kobe departures 11/1, ANNELIESE ESSBERGER (35.) (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0408/12)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CONTE GRANDE — Italian Ship CONTE GRANDE bunkered 300 tons Oil Fuel 10/11. (S.O.I., Montevideo 0111/12)

ENDERTA — Present at Kobe flying Italian Flag. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0408/12)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

MENDOZA — French ship MENDOZA continuing loading. Expected to complete p.m. today, Sunday or a.m. to-morrow, Monday. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1044Z/12)

French ship MENDOZA sailed from Montevideo at 2225 G.M.T. today 12/1. (S.O.I Montevideo, 2230Z/12)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

NALGORA
(Torpedoed 2/1)

Your 1425/11 Survivors from SS NALGORA and my 1033 (not to Admiralty) Occupants of other three life boats have been picked up, one boat load by UNGENI with 34, two by NOLISEMENT which brought 46 survivors to Freetown. Total number of survivors accounted for 99. (C. in C., S.A., 1305N/12 to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent.)

Submarines Reported

1211 — Vicinity of 57° 30 N., 20° W., very indefinite (D.S. 496)

1557 — About 51° N., 28° W., indefinite (D.S. 496)

2141 — About 54.30 N., 15° W., (Italian) very indefinite (D.S. 496)

2112 — 45°-46° N., 3° - 4° W., (Italian) Indefinite (D.S. 496)

2307 — 45°-47° N., 3° - 4° W., (Italian) Indefinite (D.S. 496)

Am over enemy submarine in position 54.17 N 12.51 W. (A/C, 0130/12 to Stranraer)

Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge when first sighted was on course 220 estimated speed 10 knots. (A/C 0135/12 to Stranraer)

Send one Destroyer to attack submarine reported by aircraft in position 054° 17' N., 012° 51' W., at 0130/12. Ship detailed report name after leaving convoy. (C. in C., W.A., 0241/12 to LEITH)

My 0241. S/M was sighted on the surface and seen to submerge. When first sighted was on course 220° speed ten knots. (C. in C., W.A., 0249/12 to LEITH)

/Estimated.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

In N.W. Approaches an uncertain number of U/B's are searching widely. Reliefs may enter area from N.E.

German. 1 in 54° 12' N., 13° 02' W., at 0130/12 may move S.
2 within 150 miles of Rockall probably to W. of N.W.
1 about 55° 30' N., 21° W.
Possibly 1 about 57° N., 10° W.
1 off S.W. Ireland.
1 or possibly 2 in Freetown area of which one may have been in 2° 50' N., 9° 20' W at 1335/10.
1 in about 50° N., 31°-33° W., at 0517/12 possibly searching Halifax Route.

Italian. 1 in Cape de Verde Islands area
1 about 46° N., 5° W., bound for Gironde
1 about 57° 30' N., 20° W., at 1105/12.
1 West of 15° W., between 57° N., and 60° N

(D.D.I.C., 1343/12 C. in C., W.A., 1719/12/ to SEVERN)

Estimated U-Boat disposition, German, one off South West Ireland, Italian, one about 046° North 005° West bound Gironde. (V.A.S, 1621/12 to S/M's Area B)

My 1621/12. A second Italian Submarine may be making Gironde. Endeavour to intercept. (V.A.S. 2259/12 to TALISMAN)

Mediterranean

Presence of enemy submarine suspect in vicinity of Oxia Island. Greek submarine sighted on 8/1, 2 red lights which did not come from friendly ships and on 11th heard unidentified propellor noise. (Capt. S. 1. 1355/12, to PARTHIAN)

Submarines Attacked

By ANEMONE 7/1

Your 1601/11 Asking for verification of position. My 1725/10 Re ANEMONE attack on U-Boat. Position was transmitted from here as 59-20 N., 13-20 W., (Capt. D. Londonderry 0015/12 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.1.1941
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep for Raider

The Battle Cruiser Force returned today from their sweep (see 11/1) HOOD proceeded direct to Rosyth.

Atlantic Convoy Escorts

The proposals for escorts of H.X. and O.B. convoys refuelling in Iceland has been postponed.

British Air Activity

Brest was again successfully attacked last night by aircraft of Bomber Command. A successful attack was also made on the oil refineries at Porto Marghera near Venice.

Coastal Command aircraft last night attacked the docks at Lorient with good result.

Bad weather caused a reduction in the number of patrols flown today.

Enemy Air Activity

Apart from a Greek steamer machine-gunned at the entrance to St. Georges Channel and an unsuccessful attack by a single aircraft this evening on ships in the convoy anchorage at Milford Haven, no offensive enemy activity against shipping is reported today.

Very slight damage to Naval property from incendiary bombs was caused in a raid on Plymouth this evening. The Gas Works and Electrical Generating Station were badly damaged.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.1.1941
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation B.S. 49

TEVIOT BANK and INTREPID today laid mines in the East Coast Barrier.

R.A.F. Minelaying

Bomber Command aircraft last night laid mines off the north west coast of France.

Enemy Minelaying

Enemy minelaying aircraft continued to operate in Liverpool Bay last night.

Liverpool was reopened at 1500 and Preston at 1630. Mines were detonated off Liverpool, Plymouth (by ASAMA, no report of damage), in the Thames Estuary, Milford Haven and probably off Margate.

Two mines were detonated today in trawl midway between the Isle of Man and the coast of Lancashire. This is a new minefield.

Operations Against Vichy French

SS MENDOZA

The French MENDOZA (See 11/1) which left Montevideo at 2233 G.M.T./12 stopped outside territorial waters. ASTURIAS sent a boarding party, which boarded when MENDOZA had drifted (probably with assistance of her engines) and was anchored 2 miles off shore.
On the ship refusing to proceed under the orders of ASTURIAS the boarding party withdrew. ASTURIAS remaining in sight outside territorial waters. MENDOZA later got under way for the Plate.

SS CANTAL

MARON reports that she is experiencing difficulty with the French SS CANTAL which she is bringing in to Gibraltar. MARON is unable to board, and suspects that CANTAL has sent a signal by W/T.

/F.O.C.N.A.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.1.1941
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

SS CANTAL-Contd. F.O.C.N.A. has informed MARON that if French warships dispute possession of a ship whilst being brought in she is to be surrendered under protest unless British force present is overwhelmingly superior. In no case is a British ship to fire the first shot, nor are French warships to be ordered or forcibly brought into port, even if they have tried to resist exercise of control.

C. in C., S.A., has informed ships in the same sense

East Indies

Several air attacks were made on Assab between 1445 and 2030 today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Enemy Use of French Ports.

Your 1600/10. The persistent and gallant attacks on the cruiser at Brest should go far to discourage the use of French ports.
(C. in C. H.F. 0924/13 to Adty).

ADVENTURE.

It is desired to break routine nature of ADVENTURE's programme which should now be known to enemy.

2. Propose therefore that ADVENTURE proceed to Liverpool Bay after laying Z.M.E.15 on night of 14/1, remaining there as an A.A. guardship in addition to any unit C. in C. H.F. may decide to send, until about 22/1.

3. ADVENTURE to return to Milford Haven in time for further operations of the G.Q. series.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1334/13 to C. in C. W.A).

11th M/L Flotilla Base.

Admiralty 1616/30/12 and my 1220/31/12. In view of probable operational requirements of 11th M L Flotilla it is proposed to base them at Harwich Felixstowe, or Ipswich as arranged by F.O.I.C. Harwich. Base and operational use of 6th M.G.B. Flotilla is under consideration.
(C. in C. Nore 2140/13 to Adty).

HOLDERNESS.

Strongly recommend as urgent requirement that HOLDERNESS be fitted with R/D F. gear.
(C. in C. Nore 2146/13 to Adty).

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/13 (D.C. 1153/13).
At 2330/13 (D.C. 2356/13).

MOST SECRET.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

KASHMIR.
JUPITER.
JERSEY.

Sailed from Plymouth 0627/12
(C. in C. W.A. 0021/13).

REPULSE, EDINBURGH,
BIRMINGHAM, SOMALI,
BEDOUIN, TARTAR,
ESKIMO, ECLIPSE,
ESCAPADE.

Arrived Scapa 0100/13
(A.C.O.S. 0119/13).

KEPPEL, ELECTRA
ECHO.

Sailed from Scapa 2300/12
(A.C.O.S. 0119/13).

CIRCASSIA.

Leaves P.3. and Q.3 AM/14 for Clyde.
Route (F.O.C.N.P. 1022/13).

T.L.C's
3 and 4.

To sail on completion of trials from Tyne to Inverary via the Caledonian Canal, sailed in convoy, or provided with escort in open water. A delay of up to three days could be accepted if by so doing suitable escort could be arranged.
Tugs are not considered necessary.
(D.O.D.H. 1107/13 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Request your remarks and proposals for sailing.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1603/13 to F.O.I.C.Tyne)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 2 Trawlers.
(F.O.C.O.S. 1442/13).

5 M/V's.

Intend sail, escorted by ST. CATHARINE and CORNELIAN at 1700 from Needles for Dartmouth. E.T.A. 0815/14.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1507/13)

Sailed, less FIDELE (C. in C. Portsmouth 1852/13).

ST. ALBANS.
CHARLESTON
and A.M.C's.

R.A.N.P. 1454/12. As I have heavy commitments for Destroyers can you assist with two destroyers to R/V in position 19 miles 270° from Cape Wrath at 1200/15 with CHITRAL, LETITIA and two Home Fleet Destroyers to escort A.M.C's westward. They will R/V with CILICIA, WOLFE, GALOPIAN and DERBYSHIRE in 060 40'N. 15 W. at 1300/16 to escort them to Minches.
(C. in C. H.F. 1627/13 to R.A.M.L.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

Your 1627/13. ST. ALBANS and CHARLESTON will be sailed for this duty (R.A.M.L. 1746/13 to C. in C. H.F).

HOOD, ECHO, ELECTRA, KEPPEL. — Arrived 1530/13 (C. in C. Rosyth 1633/13).

RODNEY, ECHO, ELECTRA, KEPPEL. — Sailed 1630/13 for Scapa (C. in C. Rosyth 1633/13).

PHILANTE. — To proceed to Liverpool when ready, to act as A/A Guardship in Channel as directed by F.O.I.C. Liverpool (C. in C. W.A. 1641/13 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Operations.

P.V.1. — Will be carried out between 2200 and 2359 tonight (C. in C. Nore 1021/13).

Operation is cancelled for tonight (C. in C. Nore 1851/13)

MARON. CANTAL. — Experiencing difficulty with CANTAL. Request supplementary escort in the event of French warship appearing. Suspect having sent signal by short wave (? transmission). Impossible to board. My position, course, and speed 034° 00'N. (?010°) 18'W., 056°

Invasion Exercise VICTOR. — Military Staff Invasion Exercise will begin 0800/22 and continue unless cancelled till 1800/25. Naval Shore Authorities to co-operate by passing or originating signals. (D.O.D.H. 2335/13).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

TAKU. — Sailed with CUTTY SARK as by S.2. 0921/12 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0915/13).

TALISMAN. — My 0921/12. Delete all reference to TALISMAN. (S.2. 1007/13).

My 2259/12. Leave Patrol by Route in S.2. 1107/9. Thence to Plymouth for docking (V.A.S. 1031/13 to TALISMAN).
R/V with Trawlers at 0900/16 in 215° Eddystone 10 miles.
(S.2 2246/13 to TALISMAN).

UNBEATEN. — S.5. 1001/11. Sailed (C. in C. Portsmouth 1633/13).

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0800/14. (V.A.S. 1711/13).

SURCOUF. / PORPOISE. — On completing working-up about mid-February it is intended that SURCOUF should relieve PORPOISE based at Halifax for Atlantic Convoy Escort duties.
(V.A.S. 1914/13 to B.S.3.).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. — Ordered today: HORNLI, BERT (C. in C. Rosyth 0818/13).

Lorient. / Quiberon. — A.P. 756/13/1. 53 and 59 Sqdns to attack tonight S/M's at Lorient and Hotel O.P. at Quiberon (H.Q.C.C. 1304/13 to 16 Group, Thorney Island).

A.P. 757/13/1. 217 Sqdn to attack tonight S/M's at Lorient. Disposition of S/M's is as follows
(H.Q.C.C. 1306/13 to 15 Group, St. Eval

/Thames.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity (contd).

Thames Estuary. Flying of Barrage Balloons.

Following addressed to 952 Sqn. and Cdre. Sheerness has been received from C. in C. Nore reference 1750/10 Begins.
Cancel my 1022/15/IC. It is intended that on moonlight nights barrage balloons in the Estuary should be flown as follows. (Details).
O.C. 952 Squadron is requested to decide daily how the balloons are to be flown, informing Commodore Sheerness of his decision. Ends.
C. in C. F.C. is considering these proposals. Request that C. in C. Nore be asked to submit such proposals through usual channels in future. (Air Ministry 1605/13 to Adty).

A/A Policy during Air-Raids.

Following is repetition of my 1353/13 begins:- Whilst fully appreciating urgency of developing new methods of countering night bombing recent experience at Portsmouth thrown doubt on the wisdom of the scheme of with-holding A/A fire to allow our planes to operate when a heavy attack is in progress.

Have been into question fully with A/A authorities and, though our planes contacted twice, enemy planes were cruising round practically unhampered. Balance must be struck between deterrent and aim-disturbing effect of A/A guns and chances of our plands contacting and we think that whilst the scheme of operating our planes is still in its infancy the advantage lies in keeping the A.A. guns going in the case of a large town under heavy attack.

I realise the complexity of the problem and put forward this view for consideration. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1613/13 to Adty).

/Suspected.....

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity (contd).

Thames Estuary. Flying of Barrage Balloons.

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I realise the complexity of the problem and put forward this view for consideration. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1613/13 to Adty).

/Suspected.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity (contd).

Suspected. Sabotage.

N.A.S.C.M. 3. Re suspected Sabotage in one Albacore aircraft.
(St. Merryn 1619/13 to Adty)

Escorts.

Expect escort by Sunderland aircraft from about 2200 until about 0300/14 when it will be relieved by Whitley A/C for two Sorties and thereby two Sorties of Hudson aircraft. Sorties are of 4 hours each. Aircraft will identify themselves to S.N.O. on arrival.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1802/13 to WHITEHALL, etc).

Expect escort by Sunderland A/C from 0100/14, by Whitley A/C from 0730, and then by two Sorties of Hudson A/C commencing at 1115 and 1500. A/C will identify themselves to S.N.O. on arrival.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1804/13 to MALLOW, SKATE, etc).

Oban. Night Flying.

O/750/13/1. Reference resumption of Night Flying at Oban, present situation is as follows.
(H.Q.C.C. 1920/13 to Adty)

H.Q.C.C.'s 1920/13. It is of great importance that night flying at Oban should be resumed without delay. As an immediate step request that every effort be made to keep the present landing area clear of obstructions. (D.O.D.H. 2333/13 to C. in C.W.A)

Enemy Air Activity.

Plymouth.

Single enemy aircraft raided Plymouth at 1935/12 and 2233/12 dropping one large H.E. in each raid.

In first raid private property only damaged, with some casualties including 3 dead and 3 seriously injured all believed to be civilians.

In second raid bomb fell in garden of Admiralty House, no casualties or material damage.
(C. in C. W.A. 0900/13 to Adty).

/Pentland....

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Pentland Skerries. Unknown number of unidentified A/C in sight, steering West. My position 050° Pentland Skerries (REGAL 0953/13).

LEONIDAS. (Greek, 4573 Tons) Machine-gunned by A/C in 51° 31'N. 5°20'W. (LEONIDAS 2045/13).

Mining.

B.S.49. Sailed TEVIOT BANK and INTREPID at 0955 (F.O. Humber 1025/13). Operation completed (Capt D. 20th D.F. 1515/13 to Adty).

A/C Minelaying. For tonight (H.Q.C.C. 1302/13).

Z.M.E.15. To be carried out on Night 14/1 or soon after. Details. (A.C.N.S.H. 1353/13 to C. in C. W.A. ADVENTURE).

Liverpool. Re-opened. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1500/13). Closed (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2314/13).

Off Montrose. Search of Channel. On 15/1 available ships of 5th M.S.F. are to carry out a 50% Oropesa Search of channel 2 miles each side of centre line joining the following positions:-
A. 56° 36'N. 02° 06'W.
B. 56° 36'N. 01° 08'W.

Dummy moored mines may be encountered at about 01° 10'W. On completion ships to return to Aberdeen. (C. in C. Rosyth 1529/13).

Intend sailing 6 fleet sweepers and two P.M's at 0830 tomorrow Tuesday 14/1 to carry out cleaning sweep extending 5 miles to westward of centre line of Q Z S 151 between position X and Y. Getting sweeps out at Y at 1030, in sweeps at 1530 entering harbour at about 1730. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1535/13 to C.in C Nore)

/Faroes-.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.1.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Faroes-Iceland Minefield.	Adty. 1330/3 and 1739/11 and C. in C. H.F. 1937/12. Propose Gap as follows. (R.A.M.L. 1601/13 and 1602/13 to Adty).
Plymouth.	At 0855 Mine detonated in 198° Breakwater Light 2¼ miles by ASAMA (C. in C. W.A. 1624/13).
Preston.	Re-opened (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1630/13).
Thames Estuary.	Red Mine detonated at 1540 in 289° No.2 Sea Reach Buoy 3 cables. (Capt M/s Sheerness 1707/13).
Liverpool. STRATHRYE sunk.	Mine report to 1800/13. Fishing trawler STRATHRYE mined and sunk at 2010 /12, 53° 30'N., 3°59'W. No casuaties One mine detonated by LL Sweep 197° C 9 Black Buoy 1½ cables (Crosby Channel). 2 mines detonated in trawl 54° 18'N, 4° 00' W. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1829/13).
Milford Haven.	Ground Mine self-detonated at 1920/12 in 095° St. Ann's Head Light 5 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1830/13).
Margate.	Coast Guard, Margate report loud Explosion at 1950 probably due North from Margate Lookout (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 2005/13).

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

BISMARCK. — Report of damage. (HMR. Belgrade 9/1 to Adty).

Brest
Belle-Isle-sur-Mer.
Ile de Groix. — Warships, S/M's, and M/V's seen during Night 12/13. (H.Q.B.C. 0005/14 to Air Ministry).

Convoy S.C.18.
Report of
Shadowing. — Convoy being shadowed by Surface Ship in 53° 13'N. 27° 33'W. (LACONIA 0854/13 and 0934.Z/13). Am closing LACONIA at full speed (COMORIN 1035/13) Details (LACONIA 1545.Z/13 to C. in C. W.A.) Have intercepted s.s. HIGHLAND BRIGADE who sighted Convoy at 0800/13. Am returning Halifax. (COMORIN 1910/13 to C. in C. W.A.).

SAN TOOY. — F.O.I.C. Iceland's 1725/9. Armed trawler K.48 was H.M.S. ANEMONE endeavouring to board SAN TOOY whose movements were suspicious, see my 1725/10. SAN TOOY sustained slight damage.(Capt. D. Londonderry 1355/13 to Adty).

E-Boat. — One Enemy M.T.B. in sight 180° St. Albans 5 miles. (Portsmouth W/T 1915/13).

E.-Boat suspected near Sunk Head at 2140.
(C. in C Nore 2205/13 to PYTCHLEY, COTSWOLD, etc.).

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

ROY. — Tug IRISHMAN towed ROY to Hull, and released on completion at 1530/13. (F.O. Humber 1006/13).

LANCASTER. — My 0407/11. Date cannot be given when Air Compressors can be completed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1553/13).

NAIAD. — My 1539/9. Main items are as follows. Adty 0730/10 refers. (C. in C. H.F. 1714/13 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

WINDERMERE. — Arrived Reykjavik with Engine defects (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1828/13).

CITY OF BEDFORD. — See Ocean Convoys HX 97.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

A.M.C. Movements.

Admiralty's 1011/11/1. A.M.C'S will arrive Halifax on completion of a Northern Patrol following approximate dates. LETITIA 4/2, CALIFORNIA WOLFE 16/2, SALOPIAN WORCESTERSHIRE 28/2, CILICIA DERBYSHIRE 12/3, CIRCASSIA 24/3, CHESHIRE on completion large repairs. To maintain cycle first A.M.C. for N.P. from Halifax should sail with H.X. convoy mid February. WOLFE will require to clean boilers on arrival Halifax. Date for WORCESTERSHIRE, CILICIA, DERBYSHIRE, and CIRCASSIA depend on completion of refits. Northern Patrol instructions and communications orders for A.M.C's at present based on Halifax have been sent in RAMILLIES. (F.O.C.N.P. 1230/13 to B. S.3).

Iceland Escort. Scheme. Convoy Cycle Escort Groups.

1. Even with sufficient ships to form ten mercantile escort groups the Iceland scheme could only be put into force about once a month. The extra escort time involved is out of all proportion to the extra escort given and I propose therefore that the scheme should be postponed indefinitely.

2. My policy is to form nine mercantile escort groups each consisting of 8 destroyers and 8 corvettes. I consider that until this end has been attained no alteration involving extra escort group should be made to convoy system. (C. in C. W.A. 1353/13 to Adty).

H.X. and O.B. Escorts. Re-fuelling at Houlfjord.

My 2232/4. These proposals are postponed and will not be carried out with Convoys O.B. 277 and H.X. 104. Further signal will be made before the proposals are brought into force. (A.C.N.S.T. 2051/13 to C.in C.W.A)

Ammunition. Ship.

M.D. ship M.77 left Swansea 12/1 carrying following stores for N.A.S.O. Alexandria.
(Armament S.O. Cardiff 1230/13 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys (contd).

COASTAL CONVOYS.

F.S. 86. 23 ships (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0941/13).

F.N. 83. Postponed 24 hours fog. (C. in C. Nore 1024/13) 8 ships 3 trawlers and M.L. 169 join at Outer Dowsing. (C. in C. Rosyth 1939/13).

F.S. 85. Harwich 13/1 departure PRIMULA at 0848 to join F.S. 85 for London. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0902/13 to Admty etc).

F.N. 81. LONDONDERRY, VERDUN with F.N. 81 expected to arrive 1500/13. (LONDONDERRY 0904/13 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Arrived 1715/13. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1728/13 to Admty).

Convoy positions. D.T.D. 1322/13 to C. in C. H.F.

W.N. 67. Arrived 1440/13 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1500/13).

W.N. 98.
E.N. 56.
F.S. 87.
F.N. 82. Movements tonight 13/14. One Capital Ship, three destroyers May Island 1900 Northward. WHITE BEAR with two submarines Noss Head 2000 Westward through Pentland Firth. 12th M/S Group from Aberdeen to Scurdy Ness. Expected time of arrival 2359 then sweep ahead of E.N.56. BRITOMART sails Aberdeen 2359 to Scapa. Expected time of arrival 0900. Convoys W.N. 98, Buchanness 2000, E.N. 56 sails Methil 2200, F.S. 87 sails Methil 2300, F.N. 82 eta 20 C. Buoy 1830. (C. in C. Rosyth 1634/13).

O.B. 274. Sailed ARBUTUS for Clyde and DELPHINIUM for Oban, escorts for O.B.C. and O.B.O. 274 respectively. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1745/13).

O.B.M. 274. 1805/13 H.M. Tug HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. Two. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1830/13).

MEANDROS (Gk.) (14) Halifax e.t.a. 28/1. ANNA (Gk.) (24) Buenos Aires e.t.a. 16/2. (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 1831/13.).

/W.N. 68.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys (contd).

COASTAL CONVOYS.

W.N. 88. Passed Rattray Head 1815/13 B.S.T. (SPURS, 1815/13).

F.S. 86 Norwegian M/V VESTMANROD of Skudenes anchored one mile W. of B.8 buoy is being instructed to proceed with F.S. 86 A.M. tomorrow Tuesday. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1901/13).

F.S. 85. F.S. 85 arrived except VESTMANROD, reported awaiting FS 86. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1928/13).

W.N. 69. 1900/13. H.M. Trawlers FOXTROT (S O) and RUMBA. 23 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1950/13).

O.B. 273. SALUTA returned Clyde with Commodore. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2010/13).

O.B.C. 273. FINNANGER (Nor. Tanker) ordered to return by escort and now in Rothesay Bay. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2131/13)

E.N. 56. List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Methil,2200/13 to Admty,etc).

2200/13. H.M.T's LADY ROSEMARY MORRIS DANCE Additional escort FOWEY. 22 ships. None for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2204/13).

F.S. 87. Sailed 2300/13. 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2301/13)

Sailed in F.S. 87. FRUMENTON 6675 London. JAMES HAWSON M/V6075 London (N.C.S.O. Methil 2302/13).

F.N. 81
W.N. 67
E.N. 56
F.S. 87

Rosyth 13/1. Arrivals additional to my 1833/13. LONDONDERRY and VERDUN with F.N. 81. JASON STELLA POLARIS and ULLSWATER with W.N. 67 includes POOL FISHER from Scapa.
Departures Additional to my 1833/13 LADY ROSEMARY MORRIS DANCE and FOWEY latter as additional escort to Pentland Firth with E.N. 56. LASSO for Leith. LACENNIA for Invergordon. VERSATILE and VIMIERA with F.S. 87.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2305/13).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd)

OCEAN CONVOYS.

S.C. 19.	Sailing Telegram. (S. Can. N.O. Halifax 1027/12).
H.X. 101	Tanker BRITISH SPLENDOUR to proceed to Southampton to discharge. Request you sail her from Barry. (D.O.D.H. 1105/13 to C. in C. W.A).
H.X. 102	Sailing date, route etc. (D.T.D. 1314/13).
S.L. 63	Advance Sailing Telegram. Additional Ships for S.L.S. 63. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1129/13 to Admty).
H.X. 104.	Intend normal arrangements to be in force as in your 1916/4. (C. in C. W.A. 1347/13 to Adty).
O.G. 48.	FOLKESTONE arrived 1430/13, escorting O.G. 48 (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1500/13).
H.X. 97.	Scattered by weather west of R.V. and convoy did not reform. CITY OF BEDFORD sunk in collision, VALPARAISO not yet reported, remainder arrived. (D.T.D. 1721/13).
H.G. 49 B.	Estimate will reach position in Section E. part 1 para 2 W.A.C.I at 2100/14 (C. in C. W.A. 1743/13 to ROSEMARY).
	Sailed ROSEMARY to meet at R/V and escort to Barry Roads. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1842 to C. in C. W.A.).
S.L.S. 60) H.G. 49)	Following arrived (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2230/13).
S.L. 60.	EAST WALES for Oban arrived (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2230/13).
H.X.	Request routes of H.X. convoys may be communicated observing that 18 Group is at present responsible for providing air escorts. (C. in C. Rosyth 1628/13).

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys (contd).

Troop Convoys.

In TC Convoys the Master of one of the Merchant Ships should be appointed Commodore (or Vice-Commodore if ocean escort carries out the duties of Commodore) and should be supplied with S.P. 02335.
(D.T.D. 1915/13 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.1.1941
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

SALLY MAERSK
SURIOT
OCTANE
CHANTILLY

Re crews of French ships SALLY MAERSK, OCTANE and CHANTILLY, action should be taken as in Admty. 2014/6/12. Any Danes on board SALLY MAERSK and willing to serve on Allied ships will be paid at N.M.B. rates as from the date of their expressing willingness to serve. Admty. 2121/9 suggest you use the seven Danish seamen from the JOHANNES MAERSK to fill any vacancies in the crews of the above ships. (D.T.D. 1149/13 to TO F.O.C.N.A.)

Policy if Resistance offered to Interception

If French warships dispute possession of a ship while being brought in she is to be surrendered under protest unless British Force present is overwhelmingly superior. In any case British ship is not to fire the first shot against the French warships. In no circumstances are warships to be ordered or forcibly brought into port even if they have tried to resist exercise of control. (F.O.C.N.A., 1716/13 to MARON)

My numbers 125 (corrupt group) 62 817 15, 1940 as amended by South Atlantic Station Message 133 G of 30/12.
(1) In accordance with recent instructions from Admiralty, if Vichy French Merchant ships are being sent in or brought in and French warships subsequently dispute possession the merchant ship is to be set free under protest unless British force present is overwhelmingly superior, in which case force may be used to compel them to desist from intervention, but British warships are not to fire first shot. In no case is French escorting warship to be ordered or forcibly brought into port.
(2) If French warship appears and disputes possession this is to be reported to C. in C., S.A., and Admty. but if no other instructions are received within reasonable period action is to be taken as in (1) above. (C. in C., S.A., 1347N/13 to South America Division South Atlantic Station, repeated CUMBERLAND, NEWCASTLE, ASTURIAS.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.1.1941
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

FORESTER — Admty's (?2250/12). FORESTER ordered to pass through position 043° 40' N., 022° 00' W., steering 318° at 1200Z/1/16. (F.O.C.N.A., 1212/13 to PHOEBE)

Bunkers Gibraltar — Re A.L. M 021175/40 of 5/12. Request Ministry of Shipping be instructed to arrange that ships proceeding Gibraltar are informed that they are required to have 24 days bunkers on leaving Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1234/13 to Admty.)

Skua Operation — Your 1859/9. Weather conditions precluded photographic reconnaissance on return passage from "Excess" Operation will be carried out by Skuas at first favourable opportunity. (S.O.Force H., 1410/13 to Admty.)

Aircraft in ARK ROYAL — Your 1739/10. As opportunities for using Skuas for offensive operations are few and in view of added importance of fighters of maximum speed should prefer Fulmar squadron in place of 800 Skua Squadron. (S.O.Force H., 1415/13 to Admty.)

Air Services — Lufthanza have maintained regular service past week, Alalittoria have only one once. (N.A.Lisbon, 1434/13 to Admty.)

OSIRIS — OSIRIS leaves Gibraltar 1830/14 routed through 180 Cape Trafalgar 14 and 036° 50' N., 011° W., thence in accordance with V.A.(S) 1028/3. OSIRIS will shift to Home Station W/T watch at 0001/17. All times B.S.T. (F.O.C.N.A., 1556/13 to Admty.)

OLYMPUS
OSIRIS — Estimated position of S/M's at 0800/14 and movements for following 24 hours.
(a) OLYMPUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(b) OSIRIS leaves Gibraltar 1830/14 proceeding on surface routed through 180 Cape Trafalgar 14 and 036° 50' N., 011° 00' W., speed 10 knots (F. .C.N.A. 1606/13)

/Air Report....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.1.1941
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Air Report — Daily Summary Operations. 2 Routine A.S. patrols. 1 surface recco. east. 1 A.S. patrol for convoy approaching from west. Area covered 4° W., to 7° W., (200 Group 1700/13)

ARK ROYAL — My 1232/10., 1259/2 and 1201/4. Request I may be informed when repairs can be commenced. While repairs are in hand speed will be limited to 26 knots and since some time will be required to work up to this speed I do not consider ship will be in a fit state for operation in Western Mediterranean. (S.O.Force H., 1900/13 to Admty.)

FORESTER
W.S.5 B. — Gibraltar 2215/13 departure FORESTER in accordance with Admty. 2250/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 2240/13)

South Atlantic

Suspicious Ship — Following received in plain language from master of Norwegian KOLLBJORG. (Begins) Doubtful ship passed 1200 G.M.T./12 position 033° 10' south 051° W., steering 45° true. (Description) White name plate on top bridge with black letters reading DELNORTE. Gun aft. Fully loaded speed about 13 knots looked like Yankee-built ship 1 20 about 6000 tons (Ends)
DELNORTE left Buenos Aires 10/1 for Santos. (N.O.I.C., Falklands, 0111Z/13 to R.A.S.A.D.)

ENTERPRISE — Your 1749/12. ENTERPRISE was taken in hand 13/1 for self refit with dockyard assistance. Ship will be at 24 hours' notice and will be ready for service a.m. 20 (N.O.I.C., Simonstown 1803Z/13 to Admty.)

VELOX
VIDETTE — Arrival 0730/13 VELOX and VIDETTE. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0940N/13)

/ROXANE.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

ROXANE — Overdue shipping, my 1143/12 ROXANE arrived Capetown. (S.O.I.Capetown, 0944B/13)

ISIS
ENCOUNTER
FURIOUS — ISIS and ENCOUNTER are to be sailed forthwith for Gibraltar at best speed, VEES being used for A/S escort of FURIOUS as far as necessary. (D.O.D.(F) 1104/13 to C. in C., S.A.)

Your 1104/13/1. VELOX has engine defect and will be out of action until 20/1. VIDETTE available 15/1 when FURIOUS will be ready to sail. Unless delay to FURIOUS can be accepted intend to sail FURIOUS and NEPTUNE with VIDETTE only as escort, 15/1. ISIS and ENCOUNTER sailed for Gibraltar 1700/13 (C. in C., S.A., 1901/13 to Admty.)

CLEMATIS
CYCLAMEN — Onward route from 020° 00' N., 018° 40' W should pass through (a) 011° 30' N., 018° 40' W., (b) 008° 30' N., 014° 30' W., (C. in C., S.A.,1115N/13 to CLEMATIS CYCLAMEN)

HARWICKE
GRANGE — Sailed St. Vincent (C.V. 10/1 for Plate. (Approximate noon position 14/1 and Route) (D.T.D., 1223/13 to South Atlantic Station)

Troop Convoys — Request name of commodore's ship in future troop convoys calling a Freetown, including W.S. 5 B, may be signalled to facilitate berthing. (C. in C., S.A., 1435N/13 to Admty.)

"Q" Report — Following received at 1122N very faint from unknown ship (Begins) QQQQ 015° 25' N., 025° 29' W., suspicious vessel following me, my course 180° Or 280° speed 13 knots. (DELHI, 1345/13 to C. in C., S.A.) Repeated to PRETORIA CASTLE, (C. in C., S.A., 1628/13)

/CANTON.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

CANTON — My 1135/4. Leave patrol so as to arrive at Freetown a.m./17. (C. in C., S.A., 1727N/13)

Force K. — Proceed in accordance with Admiralty's 1910/12, a.m./16 accompanied by NORFOLK DORSETSHIRE carry out instructions contained in my 0935/8. Presume you will not require fuel at S. Helena. If fitting in with your point of departure and not too far off direct route suggest you pass through K 36 and then to neighbourhood of western edge of Cape Trade Route. (C. in C., S.A., 1801N/13 to S.O. Force K.)

SHAKESPEAR (Torpedoed 5/1) — British Consul Cape Verde's 1825/6, N.C.S.O. ST Vincent's 1425/11 and my 1917/12. 23 of crew of SHAKESPEAR were landed in Sal Islands on 6/1, some injured. Portuguese sloop GONZALVES ZARCO went there on 7th/1 and brought back survivors to St. Vincent 8/1.

NALGORA (Torpedoed 4/1) — 2. 19 of crew of NALGORA landed on San Antonio Islands on 11/1 and were to be brought to St. Vincent by GONZALVES ZARCO 11/1.

3. Desirable to interview survivors, and for other reasons for one of H.M.Ships to visit Porto Grande, St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, and obtain touch with Consul. Suggest these incidents provide opportunity to send ship to thank Portuguese for measures taken and help given the survivors and possibly help in arrangements for repatriation. MILFORD could arrive St. Vincent 19/1 (C. in C., S.A., 1841/13 to Admty.)

Destroyer Report — Following from South Georgia passed to you (Begins) Leith Harbour reports having sighted a destroyer off that port about 1330 G.M.T. (Ends) Have asked for more details. (N.O.I.C., Falklands, 1959/13 to R.A.S.A.D. amended 00252/14)

/Troop.....

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

Troop Transport, East Africa	Re transport of mechanised division. (S.N.O.Simonstown 2223B/13 to Admty.)
NEPTUNE	Your 0215/12. Request information regarding final destination of NEPTUNE. (C. in C., S.A., 2315/13 to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Consuls.	Details of agreement made with Italian Govt. for release of diplomatic or consular officers. (Hd. of M., 1234/13, to "A" Message Home and abroad.)
Mine.	Floating mine reported in 42-47, N, 7. 25E, (between Corsica and Toulon.) (D.S.497.)
BONAVENTURE JAGUAR.	Your 1041/12. Concur in retaining BONAVENTURE and JAGUAR at Malta for the present as BONAVENTURE's movements will have to be reviewed in the light of cruiser situated in the Mediterranean. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0030/13, to C. in C. Med.)
	Adty. 030/13. S.O. Force H 1915/12. Intend JAGUAR and BONAVENTURE should proceed to Alexandria (? with) V.A.L.F. in order to keep number of ships in Malta as low as possible while ILLUSTRIOUS is there.(C.in C. Med., 0809/13. to Admty etc.)
PANDORA. 2 ships sunk.	M.T.A. 0700/15. Have sunk two supply ships off Sardinia A.M. 9/1. (PANDORA, 0813/13, to F.O.C.N.A.)
Operations 7/1-13/1. Communique.	Propose issuing following communique as soon as Admiralty (?is) satisfied that next of kin have been informed.
7.	It is recommended that the loss of SOUTHAMPTON should not be divulged as it is impossible that Italians can be aware of it. A very early reply is requested as delay in issue may lead to exaggerated rumours.(C. in C. Med., 0901/13, to Admty.) Reply.see 0303/14.

/Operations .....

MOST SECRET.

13. 1. 1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

Operations.
M.C.4. (Excess).
M.C.6.
Report.

My 1015 Part 1. Operation M.C. four (EXCESS) and M C six.

2. Passage of EXCESS to South-west of Sardina is given in S.O. Force H's 2355/10. 3rd C.S. on passage West was challenged by Pantellaria and altered C. 200 fathom line to open their distance whereupon five mines were cut by two ships in position 36 50½ N. 11.38½.E.

3. Meanwhile battlefleet left Alexandria a.m./7, proceeding Suda Bay via. Kithera Channel instead of Kaso as they were sighted by reconnaissance aircraft at 1140. 7th C.S. and YORK had been covering movements of Corvettes and Oiler BRAMBLELEAF to Suda Bay where they had arrived. a.m./8. Fuelled and proceeded Westwards to cover M.W.5½ convoy (?and) Corvettes which reached Malta to time without incident.

My 1015/13 Part 2. 4. Battle Fleet sailed 1400/8 after fuelling destroyers following in support to westward. Air search sighted nothing. Enemy aircraft reported a number of units but apparently not Battle Fleet.

5. On 9/1 7th C.S. made rendezvous with Battle Fleet and were detached to remain to eastwards of Malta to cover M E 6 which sailed at 0700/10.

6. Battle Fleet continued westwards and met cruisers at rendezvous arriving just as action with enemy destroyers started as given in my 1237/10. Battle Fleet came up to support but turned East when it was seen to be unnecessary. At this time GALLANT was mined or torpedoed. Fleet then covered convoy and detached 3rd C.S. and BONAVENTURE to cover GALLANT who was taken in tow by MOHAWK.

/My 1015.....

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Operations.
M.C.4. (Excess.)
M. C. 6. Report.

My 1015 Part 3. Fleet was shadowed and [illegible] shadower at 1127 over Linosa. At 1223 air attack developed first by two T/B air craft on Battle Fleet torpedoes missing astern after avoiding action. At 1235 some 25 or more J U 87 and 88 dive bombed attacking with great determination and skill suggesting German personnel. ILLUSTRIOUS severely hit. For damage and casualties see V.A. Malta's 1035/11. WARSPITE sustained slight damage from near miss or graze under starboard hawse pipe and two slight casualties from machine gun fire.

My 1015 Part. 4. 8. Fulmars intended for chasing torpedo bombing aircraft were unable to intervene. Anti-aircraft fire not good due to lack of fire discipline, this being first large scale dive, bombing attack really experienced by Mediterranean Fleet. One Fulmar and one Swordfish shot down, crews saved. Two enemy aircraft shot down by gunfire.

9. ILLUSTRIOUS set on fire on 3 places and had steering gear disabled. She left the line and was out of control till 1530 when she was able to make towards Malta steering by engine only. Battle Fleet operated in support. At 1330 ILLUSTRIOUS and convoy was unsuccessfully attacked by high level bombers and between 1600 and 1700 a second dive bombing attack by about 30 aircraft developed on ILLUSTRIOUS and on battleships. ILLUSTRIOUS believed hit again and VALIANT had one killed and 3 wounded from near misses. Heavy bombs, about thousand pounds, used in all these attacks.

My 1015/13. Part 5.
10. ILLUSTRIOUS aircraft in air at time of first attack had been ordered to Malta to refuel and Fulmars were able to intervene in last attack. They claim shooting down 6 or 7 Ju. 87's, (? 4 or 8) S 87 and damaging others.

11. By 1730 ILLUSTRIOUS was making good 17 knots and had fire partially under control. She was unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo aircraft at 1920 before entering Grand Harbour about 2100 still steering by engine. Lack of seagoing tugs at Malta was severe

/My 1015/13.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

My 1015/13 Part 6.
12. Meanwhile EXCESS has been joined by CALCUTTA from Malta and later by WAIWERA and LANARKSHIRE and after detaching ESSEX to Malta convoy proceeded eastwards. Convoy M E 6 had left Malta A.M./10 escorted by Corvettes and was proceeding South of Medina Bank.
13. Battle Fleet after seeing ILLUSTRIOUS under coast of Malta turned South and later West to close forces with GALLANT but on receipt of air reconnaissance report Italian battleship had left Naples, battlefleet turned back to eastward at 2000 to overhaul convoys. Contact was made with EXCESS A.M./11 and with V.A.L.F. and 7th C.S., YORK having been detached to convoy M E 6 further to southwards.
My 1015/13. Part 7.
14. GLOUCESTER and SOUTHAMPTON left GALLANT about 0500/?9th to BONAVENTURE MOHAWK and GRIFFIN who saw her into Malta. 3rd. C.S. then followed Fleet at high speed and were ordered to join YORK covering M.E.6. They were shadowed most days and attacked at 1500 by 12 dive bombers who arrived down sun and achieved surprise. Both ships hit, GLOUCESTER by unexploded bomb on director tower which killed 9 and wounded 14. One aircraft on A/S patrol landed in sea crew saved. SOUTHAMPTON heavily hit vicinity after engine room causing large fire which defied control. Ship had to be abandoned and sunk as reported in my 2155/11.

My 1015 Part 8 and final.

15. B.S.I. in BARHAM with EAGLE and destroyers at Alexandria had left there P.M./10 for operation MC.6, which, however, had to be abandoned. Intended F.A.A. attack on Tobruk P.M./11 also had to be cancelled due to low visibility.

/All force.....

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

16. All force less convoy escort rendezvous in position 034° 40'N, 023° 10' E. at 0800/12 and were detailed for further operations as set out in my 1031/12. "EXCESS" arrived Piraeus about noon /12.(C. in C. Med., 0949, 0951, 0953, 0955, 1001,1007 and 1015/13.)

ILLUSTRIOUS. State of aircraft (1) at Hal Far, (2) in ILLUSTRIOUS, (3) lost at sea, (4) ashore in Egypt. (ILLUSTRIOUS 1515/13.)

LIVERPOOL. Your 0115Z/7. LIVERPOOL not expected to sail before mid February at the earliest. (C. in C. Med., 1007/13, to C. in C. China.)

BONAVENTURE.
JAGUAR,
Service
Passengers. Your 1031/12 para. C. and 0809/13, intend to send all passengers for U.K. to Alexandria in these ships. (V.A. Malta, 1031/13 to C. in C. Med.)

BONAVENTURE. Situation with regard to ammunition in BONAVENTURE is better than at first appeared. (details.) (V.A. Malta, 1131/13 to C. in C. Med.)

Air Report
Benghazi
and Derna
bombed. X.1512. A.828 13/1. Operational Summary No. 217 up to 1200 hours 13/1/1941, Night 11/12, 2 Wellingtons dropped 3500 lbs, of bombs on the quays at Benghazi starting fires in the railway yards along the docks and in the town. 1 violent explosion was also caused. 3 Blenheims dropped 3300 lbs. of bombs on Derna Barracks starting 1 small fire. All our aircraft returned safely.

/Day.....

MOST SECRET.

13. 1. 1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Air Report. Benghazi and Derna bombed.

Day 12/1 no bombing operations. Reconnaissances reported 7 merchant ships of 3000 tons 3 ships between 2 and 3000 tons and 1 hospital ship of 9000 tons in Benghazi harbour. No off shore shipping observed in Benghazi area. 1 Sunderland reconnoitered the coast of Cyrenaica to Tokra for enemy shipping. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E.,1201/13.)

U.S.Submarine Observer.

Commander Fife U.S.N. Submarine observer arrived a.m./12. Intends to proceed on next patrol in TRIUMPH thence to Alexandria. (V.A.Malta,1353/13, to C. in C. Med.)

SOUTHAMPTON.

In continuation of my 2155/11, further details of damage to SOUTHAMPTON. Ship was finally sunk by torpedo which apparently set off magazine. Approximate casualties 80 killed or missing, 100 wounded including 40 seriously. (C. in C. Med., 1359/13, to Admty.)

Menace of Dive Bombers, Sicily.

Your will no doubt be discussing with A.O.C. in C. what measures are possible for dealing with the dive bombers in Sicily. With the 12 hurricanes which were transported in "EXCESS" and the Fulmars ex ILLUSTRIOUS it would appear that Malta is well off for fighters. It might be possible for A.O.C. in C. to spare some Blenheim Fighters for Malta. (1 S.L., 1649/13, to C. in C. Med.)

Operation "Excess."

Arrival 13/1. C. in C. WARSPITE,VALLIANT GLOUCESTER, JERVIS, JANUS, GREYHOUND, DIAMOND, VOYAGER, HERO, DEFENDER, ULSTER PRINCE. (S.O.I, Alexandria,1705/13.)

Malta Air Raids.

X 1613. Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 hours 13/1. Air Raids. ~~Our~~ enemy formations approached. Fighter up. No interceptions. 1020 to 1035 enemy aircraft possibly JU 88 flying high crossed the Island presumably reconnaissance. Fighters up. No interceptions.

/Part 2.....

MOST SECRET.

13. 1. 1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Part 2. Reco's.

Reconnaissance. 2100 to 0700 Sunderland effected anti-convoy patrol between Malta and Tunisia. Nil report. 0629 to 1224 Glenn Martin reconnoitred Naples unobserved by enemy. Naples. 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers, 9 fleet auxiliaries 2 liners 20,000 tons 1 liner 15,000 tons large and several small M/V's. Upon receiving signal from this aircraft at 0730 reporting enemy convoy of 4 destroyers 2 auxiliaries 6 M/V's 10,000 to 12,000 tons at 37.39' N. 11.44' E. course 228° speed 10 knots another Glenn Martin was despatched, 1315 to 1512, to discover convoy and return immediately after sending sighting report. Nil report notwithstanding excellent visibility. (H.Q.R.A.F., Med., 1730/13.)

Malta Air Report. Catania aerodrome attacked. Special Operational Summary. All times G.M.T. My A.75, 12/1, 10 Wellingtons 148 squadron attacked Catania aerodrome night Jan. 12/13. Photos taken on recco a.m. 12/1, showed No. of aircraft probably JU 87's.Total weight of bombs dropped 31 500 lbs G.P. 1920 lbs.Incendiaries 500 (corrupt group) incendiaries (Results). 1 Wellington hit by A.A, landed in sea 15 miles from Malta, all crew rescued by British A/S trawler. A second Wellington 5 crew failed to return.(H.Q.Malta, 1800/13.)

Aircraft Convoys. Convoys arrivals on 13/1. 2 Fulmars 18 Convoy. 21 Convoy, 2 Blenheims 6 Monsoon Hurricanes. Request you inform Admiralty and FURIOUS.(H.Q.R.A.F.,M.E. 1854/13, to Air Ministry.)

4 Destroyers. 8 M.V's A/C reported 0840 A/13. 4 destroyers 8 Merchant ships position 037° 40',011°44', 228 degs. 10 knots.(Comdr.(S) 1855/13. to UPRIGHT, REGENT, (Position N.E. of Cape Bon.)

Troop Transports. Your 2111/8, 1342/11 and 1255/12 C. in C. Med. 1151/12 and S.T.O. Alexandria's 1835/11. Allocation of ships named now appears to be as follows. Request probabl dates of release for commercial service o certain s/hips.(D.S.S.1940/13, to P.S.T.O Egypt.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.1.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

CERES
Mogadiscio

Reconnaissance of Mogadiscio 10/1 by CERES showed no ships present. (C. in C., E.I., 0432Z/13)

CERES
COLOMBO
Kismayu

CERES is to leave Kismayu Patrol so as to arrive Mombasa a.m/16 subject to not less than 20% of fuel remaining on arrival.
COLOMBO is to leave Mombasa a.m/14 and proceed patrol off Kismayu. (C. in C., E.I. 0748Z/13 to CERES, COLOMBO)

Enemy Unit

Bearings obtained at 2117/12 G.M.T. on 8470 kc/s indicate presence of unknown enemy unit in South Indian Ocean, probably in the vicinity of Kerguelen. Text of message QQ AOZ YSK K. Bearings were:- Ascension 318/3, Halifax 105/4, Bermuda 120/Flat, Kranji 207/1.
Possible that the unit repeated the message at 2137/12 G.M.T. Bearings obtained by Home Stations of second transmission inconclusive. (D.D.I.C., 1032/13 to C. in C's)

Persian Gulf
Defence

0428/28/840 re additional local naval defence craft for Persian Gulf. Intend to take following action from Station resources. Other requirements. (C. in C., E.I., 1058Z/13)

Ships Visiting
Mozambique

N.O.i/c Simonstown's 1424/8. Only course open appears to be for diplomatic action to arrange repatriation in a British or French ship. Can such action be taken? (C. in C., E.I., 1102Z/13 to Admty.)

Air
Operations

Proposed at Assab, Massawa, Kismayu. Remarks on Admty 1726/3 and 1538/9 (C. in C., E.I., 1222Z/13) See Operations Vol.)

/Enemy Unit....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.1.1941
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Enemy Unit Intercept

Capt. on Staff Singapore 0908/13 (circulated D.N.I., O.I.C., D.S.D. 9 only, re groups of code intercepted by KRANJI.)
SHROPSHIRE could investigate Kerguelen and Amsterdam Island after fuelling Durban, arriving former (date) Force T could take her (? comma) escorting W.S. 5 A to (position) or alternatively KANIMBLA could do so from Durban to Aden.
Am inclined to think this might be a wild goose chase due to time factor and that it is better to keep available ships on trade routes.
Intend therefore to keep to present dispositions unless you have other information indicating that search is advisable. (C. in C., E.I., 1352Z/13 to Admty.)

Raider Reports

Your 1352Z/13 paras 2 and 3 concur.
With reference to my 2235/13 to C.O.I.S. and my 1032/13 to other addresses a possible explanation is:-
(i) The apparently fake raider reports of 1520/16/12 and 2345/31/12 coupled with the large number of bearings received by MAURITIUS between 1st and 12/1 might have been transmitted by a captured ship during the period whilst the raider was resting.
(ii) The bearing near Kerguelen might indicate the departure of the raider from that Island. (D.D.I.C., 2332/13 to C. in C., E.I.)

SHROPSHIRE

Proceed now to Durban and complete with fuel as soon as possible. (C. in C., E.I., 1410Z/13 to SHROPSHIRE)

CHANTALA Perim

Departure 1430Z/13 CHANTALA for Perim patrol. (N.O.I.C., Aden, 1445Z/13)

SSSS Report 2/1, STAFFORDSHIRE

British ship STAFFORDSHIRE reports when in 008° 11' S., 050° 50' E., 2037 G.M.T./2 following fragment of message was intercepted quoted "from V R S, S S S S Unread G A D G O torpedoed west of Mauritious". French message was not obtained due to strong atmospherics and G A D G O appeared end of ship's name, unknown here. (S.O.I Capetown, 1706B/13.) (Note. V.R.S. is call sign of Mauritius W/T station)

/Air Report....

MOST SECRET

13.1.1941.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Air Report

A. 529. 13/1. Summary No 215 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 13/1. No operations over I.E.A. One Blenheim 203 Sqdn. returned from convoy duties base Kamaran. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1812/13)

America & West Indies

Canadian Corvettes

With reference to your naval appreciation for 1941 containing the welcome proposal to place certain corvettes and minsweepers at our disposal for as long as the general strategical situation remains unchanged, I should be grateful for information as to which ships will be made available during 1941 together with approximate dates. (1st S.L. 0003/13 to C.N.S. Ottawa)

U.S. Base, Bermuda

In connection with U.S. Base U.S. Govt. envisage necessity on occasion for U.S. ships and planes to leave for destinations in Atlantic or Caribbean Sea before formal approval can be obtained from Government concerned. They intend to notify Local American Consulate only in these cases. Governor of Bermuda has no objection. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1104/13 to Admty.)

PORPOISE

Halifax arrival 13/1 PORPOISE from H.X. 99. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1220/13)

Troop Transport

Your 1706/11/1. Request confirmation numbers which can be accommodated for passage to U.K. in DUCHESS OF YORK 3070, ORONTES 3226, WARWICK CASTLE 700. Request brief summary of passengers in these 3 ships on westbound voyage. Is WARWICK CASTLE sailing direct or calling at Halifax? (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1242/13 to Admty.)

B.H.X. 103

Departure B.H.X. 103. Ocean escort MONTCLARE returning Halifax through 043° 15' N., 060° 00' W., (N.O.I.C., Bermuda, 1243/13 to Admty. etc.)

/ROYAL CROWN...

MOST SECRET

13.1.1941.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

ROYAL CROWN — ROYAL CROWN arrived New York 10/1 from Milford Haven without warning. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1455/13 to M. of Shipping)

Leakage in Blockade — Method by which essential oil being sent from France to Dakar. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1623/13)

DIOMEDE — Bermuda departure DIOMEDE in accordance with my 1022/12. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1703/13 to Admty. etc.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN ARROW HEAD H.X. 103 — Intend to sail ROYAL SOVEREIGN and ARROW HEAD as ocean escorts to H.X. 103. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is being instructed to leave convoy as necessary to comply with your 1506/9. ARROW HEAD instructed to proceed to Clyde with that portion of convoy in absence of other instructions. (F.O. 3 B.S., 1859/13 to Admty.)

Australia

Raider, Japanese Markings — My 1300Z/12 part two. Following is specific example. Captain Fish, Master KOMATA, states when NANYO MARU closed his vessel to shell her off Nauru on 7/12 the foremost Japanese markings which were on ship's side just abreast foremost were exposed. This categorical statement is to some extent qualified by fact Captain Fish is still suffering from his wounds and privations. After "dropped over Japanese flag" in my 1300Z/12 insert "amidships". (A.C.N.B., 0324Z/13 to N.A. Tokyo.)

ADELAIDE — ADELAIDE will be at Ocean Is. in February. Request a tanker be diverted to fuel ADELAIDE at Tulagi. Tanker should be at Tulagi by 10/2. (A.C.N.B., 1049Z/13 to D. of S.T.)

ADELAIDE escorting MAUNGANUI and CITY OF DELHI left Sydney 0335/13 for Cook Straits. N.Z. (A.C.N.B., 1516Z/13)

MOST SECRET.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ANNELIESE ESSBERGER.

Kobe 12/1 ANNELIESE ESSBERGER (35) returned to anchorage.
(Capt: O.S. Singapore 0824/13).

SALZBURG.

Arrived from Burgas. (Varna 1710/13).

FORTUNA.

German FORT NA reported as ready to sail from Gijon 10/1.
(A.N.A. Madrid 2015/13).

Italian Merchant Ships.

GERARCHIA.

Jan. 4th arrival Italian GERARCHIA for San Nicolao Island, Cape Verde Islands.
(St. Vincent C.V. 0905/13).

MOST SECRET.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

French ship MENDOZA anchored in territorial waters 041 degs. 10.5 miles from Lobos Island Light.
(ASTURIAS, 0736Z/13 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Boarding party boarded on anchoring. All methods of persuasion failed. MENDOZA still at anchor. Remaining in sight outside territorial waters.
(ASTURIAS, 0812/13 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Your 0916Z/13.≠ Intercepted outside territorial waters but drifted during boarding operations.
(ASTURIAS 1030Z/13).

≠ Not yet received.

ASTURIAS when in position 082 degs. 11.7 miles from Lobos sighted MENDOZA inside Lobos Islands at 0515 G.M.T. MENDOZA was intercepted just outside territorial waters but before boarding boat arrived alongside MENDOZA had anchored inside territorial waters. No force was used and when Captain MENDOZA rejected request to weigh party withdrew. MENDOZA still at anchor in position 041 degs. Lobos 10.5 miles. Have ordered ASTURIAS to keep touch until further orders, report movements and take opportunity offered to intercept within limitation of Admty's 1108/22/12 (to C.in C. S.A. and R.A.S.A.D. only).
(R.A.S.A.D. 1150Z/13 to Admty.etc.)

Your 1150Z/13. Uruguay Minister of Foreign Affairs has learnt of attempted detente of French Ship MENDOZA.
He has expressed some concern and has requested H.M.Representative Montevideo to call and present his explanation.
Details of interview will be telegraphed.
(S.C.(I) Montevideo to R.A.S.A.D. 1533Z/13)

My 1533Z/13 Minister for Foreign Affairs was under impression that MENDOZA sailed with Navicert and was satisfied when told that she had not received our permission to sail. He has asked H.M.Minister for a written assurance that there was no infringement of territorial waters. This will be done at a further interview arranged for this evening.
(S.C.(I) Montevideo 1942Z/13 to R.A.S.A.D.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.1.1941.
MONDAY.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

Following is translation of W/T message intercepted from French ship MENDOZA to French N.A. Buenos Aires (begins) We are watched by a Cruiser and Auxiliary Cruiser. Owing to outlay of coast capture is certain if we continue voyage. Consider prudent to return to Montevideo Roads. (Ends).
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 1924Z/13 to R.A.S.A.D.)

My 1150Z. Have been in company with ASTURIAS and further statement of circumstances follows.

On sighting, ASTURIAS ordered MENDOZA then outside territorial waters to steer east and then to stop. Ship failed to comply with either signal and MENDOZA steered towards Uruguayan territorial waters. ASTURIAS endeavouring to cut her off, collision being narrowly avoided. She then appeared to stop when 3 point 6 miles from shore and boarding party from ASTURIAS was sent. MENDOZA continued to drift inshore probably using engines and was anchored 2 miles from shore when boat reached her. Boarding was continued with object of inducing Captain of MENDOZA to proceed under orders of ASTURIAS. On finding himself unsuccessful officer and boarding party withdrew. No force or coercion was used at any time. MENDOZA remains at anchor 041 degs. Lobos 10.5 miles.

ASTURIAS states he entered waters west of the line Santa Maria - Cape San Antonio as he considered my 1522Z/10 (not to Admiralty) cancelled the restriction. C.in C. S.A. please pass my 1522Z/10 to Admiralty. MENDOZA has broadcast in plain language on 500 kilocycles that she was boarded by a British auxiliary cruiser 10 miles east of Lobos in Uruguayan territorial waters (this position is not in Uruguayan territorial waters) and later that she was anchored two miles from coast with British on board.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1808Z/13 to Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.1.1941.
Monday

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS-Contd.

My 1808Z ASTURIAS report at 1951Z, MENDOZA appears to be returning to Montevideo. (R.A.S.A.D. 2206Z/13)

French ship MENDOZA is now returning River Plate and is expected to arrive off Montevideo at 0130 G.M.T./14 and enter port after daybreak. (S.O.I. Montevideo 22322/13 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

13.1.1941.
Monday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

SHAKESPEAR
NALGORA

Landing of survivors at St. Vincent (C. in C., S.A., 1841/13) See South Atlantic.

My 1305/12 and VELOX 1930/4 (re survivors from NALGORA) Survivors rescued by NOLISEMENT state NALGORA attacked by one submarine. Hit by one torpedo certain, possibly second later. Ship abandoned about 15 minutes after attack. Submarine then shelled ship intermittently for about 2 hours. Ship last seen in flames. Submarine described as being 500 to 750 tons, rather squat, with raised and rounded bow, having one gun forward of conning tower and one semi automatic gun. Ship was not zigzagging. (C. in C., S.A. 2005N/13 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported

0328 — There are indications of a German submarine in arc between 047° to 049° N., and 005° to 007° W. (V.A.S. 0328/13 to S/M's Area B)

1540 — West of the Shannon. Very Indefinite. (D.S. 496)

1656 — About 48° N., 28° W., say 750' W.S.W. of Fastnet (D.S. 496)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

In N.W. Approaches an uncertain number of U/B's may increase effect against shipping and move gradually inwards.

German. 1 with 30 miles radius of 55° 30' N 20° 30' W.
1 within 60 miles radius of 51° N., 28° W.
1 within 60 miles radius of 57° N., 18°30'W.
1 in vicinity of Porcupine Bank
1 within 60 miles radius of 59° N., 15° W may move to North Eastward.
1 in Freetown area.

/Italian.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.1.1941.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions-Contd.

Italian. 1 to Southward of Cape de Verde Islands.
1 entering Gironde today
1 in Bay of Biscay outward bound.
1 within 60 miles radius of 56° 30' N., 17° W.,
1 may be North of 57° N., West of 15° W.
Possibly one south of 55° N., West of 14° W.
(D.D.I.C., 1340/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.1.1941
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

S.C. 17 — The slow convoy from Sydney C.B. was 36 hours late at R.V. on account of weather. There were 8 stragglers, which all eventually arrived.

British Air Activity

Aircraft of Coastal Command last night again successfully attacked the docks at Lorient.

Enemy Air Activity

No attacks on shipping or naval establishments were reported today.

Mining

Liverpool — Minelaying by enemy aircraft in Liverpool Bay area is believed to have continued last night. The extent of aircraft minelaying in this area is causing concern, and the question of air defence is being examined. The port was re-opened this morning.

Thames — The mining situation in the Thames Estuary has now made it impossible to continue servicing the barges and lighters of the balloon barrage. It is intended as a temporary measure to evacuate the crews from all barges and deflate the balloons. A few balloon drifters can be kept in swept waters.

Fast minesweeper FITZROY was damaged by a mine today and was towed to Harwich.

Operation Z M E 15 — ADVENTURE laid mines at the entrance to St. George's Channel late this evening.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.1.1941
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

MENDOZA sailed from Montevideo Roads at 1715 G.M.T. today and anchored in Punta del Este Bay.

MARON brought SS CANTAL into Gibraltar this evening.

South Atlantic

SS EUMAEUS was sunk by a U-Boat today about 110 miles west of Freetown. C. in C., S.A., has suggested sending one of H.M. ships to visit Cape Verde Islands which it was thought that U-Boats working in the Freetown area might be using; but the Admiralty consider this undesirable.

Mediterranean

5 Wellingtons last night bombed Benghazi harbour.

East Indies

3 Wellesleys last night bombed Asmara. Sheikh Said and Difnein Island were also attacked.

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A/A. Guardship in Channel.

Your 1406/11. LEGION will not be sufficiently worked up for this duty and no destroyer can be spared from Home Fleet at this date. The only ship available in CURACOA but I am loath to withdraw her from her present duty as A/A defence fo the W.N. and E.N. Convoys. (C. in C. H.F. 0907/14 to Adty.)

Supply of Oil for Swedish Navy.

Your 1525/30.
1. Request details of amounts of and types of oils Swedish Navy desires.
2. What benefits do you anticipate would accrue.
3. What guarantees could be obtained that oil would not be diverted to other than Swedish naval uses and what value would you attach to such guarantees.
4. Germany now supplies certain types of oil to keep Swedish Industries operating in her own interests. Would supply by us to Navy cause any relief to Germany.
(V.C.N.S. 1753/14 to N.A. Stockholm.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/14. (D.C. 1156/14.) At 2330/14. (D.C. 2333/14.)

Movements.

REVENGE, KELLY, KIPLING. Passing Trevose Head 1515/15. E.T.A. Portsmouth 0745/16. (REVENGE 0100/14 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

ARGUS, CALIFORNIA, KELVIN. E.T.A. Clyde 1525/14. (REVENGE 0100/14.)

PUNJABI. Detached to Scapa. (REVENGE 0100/14.)

RODNEY. Arrived Scapa 0930. (A.C.O.S. 1021/14.)
ECHO, ELECTRA, KEPPEL.

/LEGION ....

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.Contd.

LEGION
DOUGLAS.

F.O.C.N.P.'s 1454/12, C. in C. H.F. 1627/13, and R.A. M.L. 1746/13. LEGION with DOUGLAS proceed passing Switha 0430/15 to R/V at 1200/15 in 270° Cape Wrath 19 with CHITRAL, CHARLESTOWN, LETITIA, and ST.ALBANS. LEGION take destroyers under his orders and provide escort to 061° 10' North 015° 00' West subsequently escorting CILICIA, DERBYSHIRE, SALOPIAN, WOLFE from 060° 40'North 015° 00' West to North Minch. On completion LEGION and DOUGLAS return to Scapa. (R.A.D.H.F.1045/14 to LEGION, DOUGLAS.)

CHITRAL
LETITIA.

Sailed as by F.O.C.N.P. 1454/12, and thence to comply with Admty. 1012/11. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1401/14.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S.1529/14.)

JERSEY.

To join REVENGE's Escort at 1615/15 in 50° 26' N. 5° 32' W.(C. in C. W.A.1839/14 to JERSEY.)

BRIGAND.
B.D.V.FOSS.

BRIGAND, towing FOSS, sailed Scapa 195 0/14 for Aberdeen. (A.C.O.S.2042/14.)

T.L.C.'s 3 and 4.

Your 1603/13. Intend sail AM/18 for Inverness with STOKE CITY as Escort. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0934/14.)

ARAWA.

To avoid possible U-Boat proceed through 49° N. 29° W. and thence as ordered. (C. in C. W.A.1315/14 to ARAWA.)

Operations.

Laying Buoys in Minches.

Northern Lighthouse Board Tender will be sailing from Oban A.M./17 to lay buoys in Minches. In fine weather this operation may be completed in two days. Reque if possible some form of escort may be provided. Northern Lighthouse Board will communicate with F.O.i/c Greenock. (D.O.D.H. 1719/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Iceland.....

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Iceland. — Recommend following adjustment of Alabaster Force. (G.D.C. Iceland Force 1410/14 to War Office. O.491.Cipher 14/1.)

Submarines.

TALISMAN. — My 2246/13. For 16/1 read 15/1 throughout. (S.2.0628/14 to TALISMAN.)

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0800/15. (V.A.S.1606/14.)

SEVERN. — Following are positions of PARDO and HIGHLAND BRIGADE at 1300/14 and 1100/14 respectively.(C. in C. W.A.0857/14 to SEVERN.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. — Patrol FAIR cancelled for today.(C. in C. Rosyth 0926/14.) Patrol IPOP is being flown this P.M.(C. in C. Rosyth 1424/14.)

Liverpool Air Defences against Minelaying.A/C. — Adty.concerned at extent of sea-mining from air in Liverpool Bay area. Measures to improve air defence in Liverpool area now being studied intensively by you and Air Ministry. Suggested however that detailed study on the spot with Naval Authorities concerned of the mine laying threat might reveal a possible solution by slight adjustments to existing local defences. Request this investigation be put in hand. (Air Ministry 1120/14 to Fighter Command.) (H.Q.F.C.1845/14 to H.Q.No.9. Group.)

Thames Estuary. — The mining situation in the Thames Estuary has now made it impossible to continue servicing the barges and lighters of the balloon barrage. Supplies of food and fuel are being kept up with difficulty by barge but balloons cannot be taken to and from the shore for servicing or balloon casualties replaced by this means.

Balloon Barrage.

/A few.....

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Balloon.
Barrage.

A few balloon drifters can be kept in swept waters but until the whole area can be swept, or pending a revision of the lay-out of the barrage, it is intended as a temporary measure to evacuate crews from all barges and lighters and deflate the balloons. Request that future policy may be reviewed at an early date. In the meantime ratings and removable equipment will be kept in readiness at Sheerness. (C. in C. Nore 1124/14. to Adty.)

Kerrara.
Sound.

Your 2333/3 and H.Q.C.C. 1930/13.

In view of urgency of resumption of flying, it is considered that modifications necessary to A/S obstructions in Kerrera Sound to enable it to be used by aircraft should be carried out forthwith, reduced effectiveness of these obstructions being accepted. (C. in C.W.A. 1231/14 to Adty.)

Lorient.
Quiberon.

AP/759. Repeat tonight operation ordered in my AP/756/13/1. (H.Q.C.C. 1252/14 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Plymouth.

Plymouth attacked by about 75 enemy aircraft between 1830 and 2130/13. Over fifty H.E. and many hundred incendiary bombs dropped on City.

No damage to dockyard or naval Establishments. Plymouth Gas Works and Electrical Generating Station badly damaged. Eighty two fires reported: all out except three which are under control.

Casualties: 11 killed, 50 seriously wounded. (C. in C. W.A. 0916/14.)

Air-Raid of PM/13 caused following damage. Estimated cost of Repair £390. (S.C.E. Devonport 1630/14 to C.E. in C.)

/GREYFRIARS.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

GREYFRIARS. (Bombed 1050/11).

Eastern Area Salvage Officer reports ship re-floated at 1930 and proceeding in tow to Humber (F.O. Humber 2345/14 to C. in C. Nore.)

Milford Haven.

Ships in Convoy Anchorage attacked by single A/C at 2212/13. 2 Bombs. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1310/14.)

Mining.

Z.M.E.15.

Intend leave Milford Haven 1900, to lay at 2045, and on completion to sail as by Adty. 1334/13. (ADVENTURE 0943/14 to Adty.) Your 0943. Approved. (C. in C. W.A. 1331/14 to ADVENTURE.) Operation completed. (ADVENTURE 2304/14 to Adty.)

Liverpool.

Port re-opened. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1100/14.)

Iceland. -Faroes Minefield.

C. in C. H.F. 1101/14 to Adty. see Operations Volume.

Proposals (R.A.M.L.1603/14.) Concur generally. Proposals.(A.C.N.S.H.1626/14.) My 1603. Position J as follows.(RAML. 1604/14.)

Dover Area.

Sweeping carried out to 0800/14. In Q Z X 247 southwest gate to Sandhead buoy by 3 Oropesa trawlers one mine 352° 2 cables from A buoy and two sweep A.V. obstructors found.(V.A.Dover1109/14)

Harwich Area.

My 1535/13. Intend to continue this operation tomorrow and on 16th.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1119/4 to C. in C. Nore.)

Cancel my 1119/4. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2342/14 to C. in C. Nore.

/A/C Minelaying.....

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

A/C. Mine-laying. A.P./758. For tonight. (H.Q.C.C.1250/14 to 16 Group, N. Coates.)

F.D.28 and F.D.29. Details. (V.A.S. 1302/14. and 1303/14 to Capt. S.2.

B.S.50. To be carried out 16/1 or soon after. Details. (A.C.N.S.T.1607/14.)

FITZROY. (Fast. Minesweeper.) Damaged by near miss from acoustic mine, at 1220/14. At present in tow of GOSSAMER with ST. MELLONS proceeding to take over tow. 3 cot cases and six non cot so far reported. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1623/14. to C. in C. Nore.)

Arrived in tow of ST. MELLONS at 1932 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1954/14.)

TIJUCA. (Mined 12/1.) My 2150/12. Amended position TIJUCA (One) 051° 23' 22" North 003° 04' 10" West. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 2107/14.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Vessel. In sight 3 miles. My position 50° N. 6° W. (TRIDENT 0648/14.) Details (TRIDENT 0805/14.) KENYA was close at 0548. Nothing seen. (C.S.10. 1001/14.)

Kiel Canal. (One) 34 communication vessels passed through Kiel canal yesterday 13th B.2.

(Two) Nearly 30 vessels from Trelleborg have been awaiting orders to proceed to German ports. C.2. (N.A.Stockholm 1603/14.)

Baltic. (1) My 1007/12. (? Swedish) BERTA was sunk off Copenhagen between Saltholm Flats and Middle Grounds in Holland 30/12. Germany states she was proceeding in a dangerous area contrary to instructions. A one.

(2) My 1007/13 para. 3, informing M V BRECHSE was bound Danzig with Porcelain stone and had found packed ice of Sound too strong for her engines. She was carried northwards into shallow water southern end Kalewgrund where scrap of magnetic mine exploded and sank her.

/3. The recent.....

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Baltic.

(3) The recent easterly wind is causing north going stream in Sound to carry away navigational marks for swept channels and it is already preventing efficient sweeping for magnetic mines. A. one (N.A.Stockholm 1659/14 to D.N.I.)

Technical.

W/T in Northern Patrol A.M.C's.

Adty 1011/11. W/T complement to be arranged. (V.A.N.P. 1904/14.)

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

5. M.V.s. Intend sailing at 1730/14 3 M/V's for Hartland Gap 1 M/V for Fowey, 1 M/V for Par. Request escort and following lights, Longships 0600 to 0610/15 and 0650 to 0700/15. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 0128/14. to C. in C.W.A.)

4. M.V.s. Intend sailing at 1830/14 2 M/VS for Poole. 1 M/V for Cowes and 1 M/V for Shoreham. Expected time of arrival needles and Poole 0800/15. Request escort also Anvil Point light for 5 minute periods every 30 minutes from 0400 to 0605/15. (N.C.S.O.Dartmouth 0142/14 to C. in C.W.A.)

W.N.68. Expected time of arrival May Island 0445. (C. in C. Rosyth 0416/14 to EGRET, WOLFHOUND.

W.N.68. Arrived 0940/14. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1000/14.)

Air Escort. Owing to weather escorting aircraft have been recalled, a further attempt to despatch Hudson A/C to both convoys will be made at daylight.(C. in C. Rosyth, 0624/14 to MALLOW WHITEHALL WINCHELSEA VANQUISHER GENTIAN,HELIOTROPE SKATE SCIMITAR VISCOUNT RHODODENDRON.

E.N.56. Sailed to join EDINA for Kirkwall. ORIOLE for Stromness.(N.C.S.O. Aberdeen, 0754/14.)

Admiralty's 1157/19/11. Following ship in E N 56 requires routes:-
FLORIAN (Br.) to Oban for New York.
13 knots. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1041/14.)

/S.L.S.61. Not.....

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.

S.L.S.61. Not met, my position course and speed 038° ?' North -020 degrees 30' West 349 degrees 5 knots. Made good. (Scarborough 0900/14. to Admty.)

F.N.82. Arrived 0905/14. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0914/14.)

W.N.69. List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 0946/14.)

S.M.V.'s. Harwich 14/1 H.M. Drifter WHEATSTALK at 0920 no R/T or W/T escorting 8 merchant ships including tug FAIRPLAY 1 towing 1 lighter expected time of arrival Yarmouth approximately 1800 today.(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0949/14.)

F.S.86. Humber Ships arrived. (N.C.S.O.Humber, 1014/14.)

S.L.60. Arrived KING NEPTUNE Ex. Convoy S.L.60. (N.C.S.O. Swansea 1035/14.)

F.N.81. Arrived.
Non arrival S.P.E.S.(Nor.)
F.N.82. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1051/14.)

F.S.86. Arrives Southend 1330/14.
F.S.87. Due at Flamborough 0330/15.
F.N.83. Due at Sheringham 0700/15.
F.N.84. Due to sail from Southend 0830/15.
C.E.22. Due at North Goodwin 1015/15.
(C. in C. Nore. 1200/14. to F.O.'s.

F.N.85. My 1200/14. For F.N.84 read F.N.85. C. in C. Nore, 1905/14.)

/F.N.83.....

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.

F.N.83. 0945/14 38 ships. (N.C.S.O.Thames, 1254/14.)

F.N.83. 8 ships 1 M.L. 3 trawlers from Humber joining at Outer Dowsing. All for North of Blyth except 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1701/14.)

F.S.86. Convoy F S 86 reported in Knob Channel. 19 ships for London. (N.C.S.O.Thames 1253/14.)

S.C.17. 36 hours late at rendezvous heavy weather and low visibility. 8 ships straggled, all now arrived. (D.T.D. 1406/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

O.B.274. Sailed 1440/14. 14 ships 9 knots. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1457/14.)

F.S.87. F.S.87. sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 15 07/14.

F.S.87. 4 ships from Humber joining at Outer Dowsing. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1704/14.)

Sailed 1500/14 estimated number of ships 42. (F.O.I.C.Tyne, 1659/14.)

E.N.57.
W.N. 70 Act as additional A/A escort to E N 57 sailing at 1830 /15. On meeting transfer to W N 70 due Cape Wrath 0300/17 and Duncansby Head 1330/17. Code word for E N 57 MIGHT, and W N 70 METRIC. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1531/14 to WESTON.)

E.N.57. (A) 1830/15. (B) H.M.Ts. ULLSWATER, STELLA POLARIS, Additional escort, WESTON, (C) 24 ships. (13 overseas). (E) Code words:-

E.N.57.	MIGHT.	
E.N.L.	portion.	MONITOR.
E.N.O.	portion.	MIXTURE.

(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1751/14.)

/W.N.69.....

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.

W.N.69.(O). Sailed 1400/14. Escort H.M.T. SOUTHERN SPRAY (S.O.) H.M.T. SOUTHERN WAVE, 18 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1540/14.)

O.G.M.50. My 1230/14 O G M 50, now no ships. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1540/14.).

E. N. 55. S.S. BUITENZORG Ex W.N.69 struck rock off Grey Island, Sound of Mull, and sank 16/12/14. Position not accurately known at present. Suggest divert Oban portion of EN 55 round South of Mull. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1946/14. to C. in C.W.A. HASTINGS.)

Troop Convoys.
S.S.BURDWAN.
W.S.6. S.S. BURDWAN is expected to arrive Rosyth for loading boom defence equipment for Mediterranean on 18/1. She is to be sailed to arrive Clyde by(date) to be included in W.S.6. Every effort is to be made to load as much boom equipment as possible in the time available. (D.B.D.1413/14 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

W.S.5.B. Retain A/S escort to limit of safe endurance. When any destroyers are detached they are to sweep astern of Convoy and proceed to Londonderry for fuel. (C. in C. W.A. 1217/14 to F.O.C. 15. C.S.)

German U-Boat shadowing Convoy WS 5B may be transmitting V's for D/F purposes on 516 kcs.(D.D.I.C. 1136/14 to C.S.15.)

W.S.5.B. There are indications that you have been reported by U/B at 0448/14 and 0734/14 G.M.T. Alter course to 180° immediately. Further signal will be made.
(D.D.I.C. 1107/14 to C.S.15.)

/W.S.5.B.....

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.

Troop Convoys.Contd.
W.3.5.B.

Alter course at 1400 so as to pass through position 51° 20' N. 22° 35' W. at 2100/14, thence to new R/V "X" 48° 10' N. 24° 00' W. at 1200/15. From thence main portion of Convoy should proceed to position E. All times are B.S.T.(D.O.D.H. 1244/14 to C.S.15.)

SOMERSETSHIRE.

Route. (D.T.D. 1910/14 to N.C.S.O. Greenock.)

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

Swedish Ship.	At 1415/13. AMBUSCADE passed following message to aircraft. Begins. Please tell F.O.i/c Greenock that Swedish ship is broken down and is returning to Clyde or anchorage off Islay Ends.(C. in C. W.A. 0521/14. to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
BARRHEAD.	My 1820/5. Efforts being made to salve, but success seems unlikely. Large amount of Stoes and Equipment brought to Reykjavik. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1131/14.)
PACIFIC.	(Swedish, 4978 Tons.) Arrived, having left Convoy with Engine trouble. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1300/14.)
BEACHY.	Arrived LADY MADELINE and ARAB with survivors from BEACHY. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1455/14.)
BUITENZORG.	(Dutch, 7073 Tons). Sailed in W.N.69 at 1415/14. Struck rock at 1600 in 49° 1 cable from Grey Island, Sound of Mull, and sank at 1615 in about 148° 11 cables from Ardtornish Point.(All crew safe.) (N.C.S.O. Oban 2115/14 to C. in C.W.A.)
ULSTER MONARCH.	My 1112/12. D.G.coils can be temporarily repaired in 3 days, but coils would not be reliable. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1733/12.)
CHURCHILL.	Arrived. Has evaporator defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2334/14.)
WITHERINGTON.	Have bad condenser trouble. Am proceedin Londonderry. (WITHERINGTON 1630/14 to C. C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.1.1941
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

SAN FRANCISCO

My 1345/10 to N.A.Madrid. If SAN FRANCISCO which is routed to Gibraltar for onward routeing to Toulon arrives at Gibraltar before French have agreed to her being used to take away French fron CHANTILLY and other ships, ship should be delayed. Master of SAN FRANCISCO should be informed that we have asked permission of French Government to embark French nationals and that ship is accordingly being delayed pending their reply. If delay of ship is not considered practicable for any reason, this should be reported to Admiralty. (Hd. of M. 1340/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1345/10. SAN FRANCISCO sailed 1030/10 routed to Gibraltar for onward routeing to Toulon. Ship should arrive at Gibraltar on 15th or 16th/1 Request you will inform French N.A. that ship is now due and ask for immediate reply to our request to embark French merchant seamen and other nationals. (Hd. of M., 1407/14 to N.A. Madrid.)

Your 1345/10., Vichy agree. (N.A.Madrid, 1735/14 to Admty.)

Tankers, Casablanca

Reliable source states two tankers escorted by a destroyer left Casablanca for Curacoa January 11th. (Wagon (General Tangier) Telegram No 5261 T.H.I. 1358/14 to Admty.)

CANTAL, escort by MARON

Expected time of arrival at Gibraltar 1930/14 G.M.T. weather permitting escorting CANTAL (French, 3178 tons)
Request following 560 tons doesel oil: 310 tons domestic water after cleaning tanks, require pilots and necessary lights. Other repairs most essential. (MARON, 1400/14 to N.O.I.C., Gibraltar)

My 1400/14. Amend expected time of arrival to 1830/14 G.M.T., (MARON 1745/14)

Gibraltar arrival 14/1 2145 H.M.S MARON escorting CANTAL. (S.O.I., Gib., 2200/14)

/French.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

French Tankers

Following received from Navy Department: from Casablanca two tankers sailed Curacoa 4/1 accompanied by destroyer. (N.A.Washington, 1500/14 to Admty.)

North Atlantic

ARK ROYAL

Your 1900/13. Repairs should be started forthwith. (D.O.D. (F) 0126/14 to S.O. Force H.)

RENOWN
ARK ROYAL
SHEFFIELD

Admiralty 1616/13 RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and SHEFFIELD have been working together for some time with resulting increase of fighting efficiency, more especially in regard to fighter control R.D.F. As these ships represent standing part of Force H I feel sure you will give this full consideration. (S.O.Force H., 1003/14 to C. in C., Med.)

Submarines
OLYMPUS
OSIRIS

Position of submarines at 0800/14 and movements for following 24 hours
(a) OLYMPUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(b) OSIRIS 036° 20' N., 008° W., proceeding on surface through 036° 50' N., 011° W and (group omitted) 50' N., 010° 50' W., speed 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1126/14)

CIRCASSIA

Left patrol 150 miles north east of Madeira a.m/14 for Clyde routed through 050° north 025° W., speed 13½ knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1132/14

Ammunition

A.M. 1140/10. Report quantity of 15 inch shell which will remain at Gibraltar and in Force H after shipments have been taken in MONARCH OF BERMUDA and CAPETOWN CASTLE. (D.T.S.D., 1637/14 to F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H.)

/Air Report....

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Air Report

Daily Summary Operations. 2 Routine A.S. patrols. 1 surface reconnaissance east. 1 surface reconnaissance vicinity Casablanca Area covered 4° W., to 10° 15' W., (200 Group, 1700/14)

Gibraltar 14/1 1830, departure OSIRIS in accordance with F.O.C. North Atlantic 1556/13. (S.O.I.Gib., 1840/14)

South Atlantic

Destroyer Report

My 1959 Z/13. For one corrupt group read "G.M.T."
Following from South Georgia (begins) Vessel was sighted making at high speed from E.S.E. later altered course as if making for West Cumberland Bay approximate speed 15 knots. (Ends) (N.O.I.C., Falklands, 0025Z/14 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Whaler

My 0025Z/14. Reporting Officer South Georgia reports he is satisfied vessel was whaler. (N.O.I.C., Falklands, 1244Z/14 to R.A.S.A.D.)

MILFORD

Attack on U-Boat (C. in C., S.A., 0905/14) See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

EUMAEUS

Torpedoed (C. in C., S.A., 0905/14, etc.,) See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN)

My 0905/14 to Admty only. (See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN) In view of U-Boat activity (corrupt group) request ISIS and ENCOUNTER be recalled to escort FURIOUS 15/1 leaving VEES free to meet W.S. 5 B. S.L. convoys also leave Freetown 18/1 and 20/1. My 1901/13 refers. (C. in C., S.A., 0907N/14 to Admty.)

Your 0907/14 approved. (A.C.N.S(F) 1352/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

/Fuel.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.1.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Fuel for Convoy	Your 1944/11/1. Vesca date of arrival Durban of HAVKONG is 27/1 which will be too late to fuel convoy. Intend using BETH but her small cargo of furnace oil will scarcely be sufficient. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1353Z/14 to D. of S.T.)
BATORY	H.M.Troop Ship BATORY sailed 2318 B/13, 18 knots. Details for Lagos and Takoradi) No cargo space available, Freetown to U.K. (S.S.T.O. Capetown, 1521/14 to Admty.)
TYR S.L. 12	S.L. 62. Norwegian TYR has returned to Freetown by order of PRETORIA CASTLE. Master reports unaware of reason. Presume inability to maintain speed, intend sailing with S.LS. 63. (N.C.S.O., Freetown, 1522/14 to Admty.)
ENTERPRISE	Request future employment of ENTERPRISE as her gunnery officer is likely to be sick in hospital here for 14 days. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1529B/14 to C. in C. E.I.)
FURIOUS	FURIOUS has now only two Skuas in operation. (C. in C., S.A., 1553N/14 to Admty.)
NEPTUNE	Your 2315/13 (destination of NEPTUNE) The matter is under consideration. A further signal will be made. (D.O.D. (H) 1616/14 to C. in C., S.A.)
U-Boat	Attacked by Walrus after sinking of EUMAEUS (C. in C., S.A., 1729/14) See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN)
HERMES	Re operational flying endurance (C. in C., S.A., 1809N/14) See Operations Volume.
MILFORD	Your 1841/13. Visit of MILFORD to Cape Verde Islands is considered undesirable. The required thanks will ne transmitted through Portuguese Government. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2350/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.1.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

A/C Bombs ARK ROYAL	Statements of prisoners that only a proportion of heavy bombs on Gagliari exploded. Request that ARK ROYAL be supplied with bombs similar to those used by R.A.F. in Germany and occupied France. (S.O.Force H., 1106/14 to Admty.)
URSULA	Proposal to operate against enemy trade, (S.O.Force H., to C. in C., Med., 1255/14) (See Mediterranean Volume)
Operation 7/1- 13/1 Press Communique	Re issue of communique (D.P.D. 0303/14 1208/14, C. in C., Med. 1547/14)
Operations Press Cables	Re Press cables received, 1 for U.S.A. (D.P.D., 1428/14, to C. in C., Med.)
Air Attacks, Derna Benina Berka Ships at Benghazi	Ops. Summary. No 218 up to 1200 hrs 14/1. 1. Egypt night 11/12 January. 3 Blenheims dropped 2940 lbs of bombs on Derna Barracks. 7 Wellingtons dropped 9,000 lbs of H.E. bombs with approximately 10,000 lbs of assorted incendiaries on Benina and Berka aerodromes. All our aircraft returned safely. Night 12/13 January. 1 Blenheim dropped 1,000 lbs of bombs on Derna Barracks. Day 13/1, no bombing operations. Blenheim reconnaissances reported one large, 4 small, and 4 unspecified ships in Benghazi harbour and about 200 M.T. dispersed West of Mechili. No change in military situation at Tobruk. 2. Greece, day 13/1. 6 Blenheims dropped 5150 lbs. of bombs on Berat. Reconnaissance of Eastern Ionian sea by one Sunderland for enemy naval forces and merchant shipping reported one Yugo Slav ship west of Corfu. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1216/14)

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.1.1941
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Malta.
Air Report

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 14/1. All times G.M.T. 1609 to 1935 Sunderland effected anti-convoy patrol between Malta and Tunis.

3 M/V's

Sighted 3 Italian M/V's 2,000 5,000 and 10,000 tons in French territorial waters west of Lampedusa, course 350° speed 10 knots. They fire ineffectively at Sunderland which was recalled owing to rising swell Malta.

1 M/V.

At 0930 1 M/V 4,000 tons unladen 4 miles south of Maritimo Island heading towards Trapani.

Palermo

0551 to 1150 Glenn Martin photo recco. Palermo Harbour and aerodrome and Catania aerodrome photos Palermo from 13,000 feet. Unable recco. Catania owing bad weather. Palermo harbour 2 destroyers 7 M/V's 6,000 tons 5 M/V's 2,000 tons. Palermo aerodrome (aircraft)

No enemy air activity over Malta today. H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1720/14)

Air
Squadrons

Your 0201/3. Organisation of Squadrons and formation of new units, including one trained in "Toras". (5th S.L. to C. in C., Med. 1732/14) See Mediterranean Volume.

Enemy
Dive-Bombers
Sicily

Reply to Admty 1649/13, Proposals. (C. in C., Med., 1815/14 to Admty.)
Request for U.S. "Brewsters" to be sent Takoradi for onward flight to Egypt. (C. in C., Med., 1817/14) See Mediterranean Volume.

Convoy "Excess"
Piraeus

Arrived p.m. today 14/1. Captain (D) 2 in ILEX, WRYNECK, VENDETTA and VAMPIRE. "Excess" convoy expected departure 18/1 p.m. (N.A.Athens, 1951/14 to Admty.)

Enemy
Decoy Schooners

Further to my 1939/14 not to S/M's on patrol. ROVER has definite evidence that Schooners are working as decoy in company with M.A.S. (S.O. S/M's, Malta Force, 2251/14 to Capt (S) 1 and S/M's on Patrol)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.1.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

SHROPSHIRE

Arrival Durban SHROPSHIRE (N.O.I.C., 0300Z/14)

Keep steam at 4 hours notice and continue with boiler repairs one at a time as approved in my 0802/12. (C. in C., E.I., 0528Z/14 to SHROPSHIRE)

RANCHI

My 0742/12 and N.O.1/c Durban 1510/13, RANCHI is to leave Durban a.m./15 for patrol and is to be off Durban to meet SELANDIA when she leaves harbour, and is then to proceed in accordance with my 0742/12 (C. in C., E.I., 0530Z/14 to RANCHI)

Your 0742/12 (positions between which RANCHI is to patrol) Owing to congestion at Durban request RANCHI may be sent to East London for Boiler cleaning on return from patrol about 24/1. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1030Z/14 ro C. in C., E.I.)

STAFFORDSHIRE picking up part of S.O.S. message

My 1706/13 has been passed to you separately. Can you throw any light on matter? (S.O.I. Capetown, 1106B/14 to N.O.I.C., Mauritius)

Your 1706/13 Consider this was a misread version of Mauritius W/T re broadcasting distress message from NALGORA, at 2237Z/2. (C. in C., E.I., 1122Z/14 to S.O.I., Capetown)

DURBAN

Left Rangoon for Andamans 13/1. (N.O.I.C. Rangoon, 1134/14 to Admty.)

Raider Reports

Your 2332/13. Reference fake messages
(1) although the distress messages were convincing enough at the time, I am now inclined to assess the fact of their ever having been made as follows, 1520/16/12 as A 4 and 2345/31/12 as B. 5.
(2) I base my present assessment on the fact that no other operator has reported hearing either message although shipping was plentiful in both areas.
(3) Considerable questioning of Masters has taken place as regards SHILLONG'S report and no information has been volunteered on the other. (C. in C., E.I., 1150Z/14 to Admty.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

ROYAL CROWN
QUEEN MARY

Departure Trincomalee 0540Z/14 ROYAL CROWN QUEEN MARY Fremantle, 19th. (B.O.I., Colombo, 1152Z/14 to Admty.)

COCKCHAFER
Iran attitude to anchoring in Shatt-el-Arab.

Iran Naval Authorities inform me that they have received no information from their Government with regard to anchoring of ship in Shatt-el-Arab which they state is in contravention of article two of their Reglement De Lejour, a copy of which has been placed in my possession. Despite my pointing out that ship is anchored on bank extending from Iraq side of river they have requested my departure within six hours unless they receive necessary information of movements meanwhile. They added that before foreign warships can anchor anywhere in river where one bank is Iran and the other Iraq territory permission should be obtained from Government of both countries. I await instructions before making any movement. My present position is 600 yards 340° from buoy off Hartah Point. (COCKCHAFER, 0900Z/14 to N.O.I.C., Basra)

Your 0900/14. Move to position above Satans Gap where both banks of the river are Iraq territory. Inform Iranian Naval Authorities that you do not agree with their views but that since your presence is embarrassing to them you are moving until further orders received from superior authorities. (S.N.O., Persian Gulf, 1150Z/14 to COCKCHAFER)

COCKCHAFER 0900/14 and my 1150, passed to you, I have given these instructions since I aprehend that value of presence of COCKCHAFER in that position is small by comparison with our other interest. Do you wish me to pursue this matter with Teheran? (S.N.O., Persian Gulf, 1150Z/14 to COCKCHAFER)

Air report.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.1.1941
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Air Report

Ops. Summary No 218 up to 1200 hours 14/1. (No naval items) (H.Q.,R.A.F.,M.E., 1217/14)

Ops. Summary. No 218 up to 1200 hours 14/1. iv. Kenya. 11/1 and 12/1. S.A.A.F. made one patrol Mombasa and reconnoitred the Moyale Mega and Goran areas. Small bombs were dropped by the recco. aircraft on Gorai and on Italian M.T. vehicles leaving Moyale and Mega. (H.Q.,R.A.F.,M.E., 1218/14)

CHAKDINA
LEANDER

Arrival 1040Z/14 CHAKDINA, departure 1230Z/ LEAND R route 013°, 047°, (?014) 054°, 008° 073°, 007°. 077° expected time of arrival 0300Z/21. (N.O.I.C.1251Z/14 to Admty., etc.)

Air Attack,
Assab.
Convoy Escort

Summary No 216 and Operation Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 14/1.
1445 to 1515. 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron made armed reconnaissance of Assab area. No activities or changes seen at Beilul L/G Macaaca Aerodrome and bombing range, both satellites and Assab harbour. 1,000 bombs dropped in medium level attack on stores and warehouse Assab. 2 Blenheims 203 Sqdn. provided fighter escorts for convoy B.S.12 using advanced base Kamaran, 1 remaining overnight. (A.H.Q., Aden. 1901/14)

China

Indo-China
Trade

Your 0947/4 and Haiphong telegram No 12 of 12/1 resumption of trade with Indo-China. Following message from Foreign Office (Details the conditions under which trade may proceed) (D.T.D., 1946/14, 1947/14 to C. in C., Chnia and Govr., Straits Settlements) See also 15/1, 16/1.

Japan and
Shipping

Your 0325 to Ambassador Tokyo No 731. EDITH MOLLER and HSIN TSE ANGTAH released 13/1 and arrived Shanghai. Bribes paid. Position re AMALIA and KONGSO. Interference continuing but settlements reached through payments (N.C.O., Shanghai to C. in C., China, 0823Z/14)

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

PORT TOWNSVILLE ashore.

My 1850/12 vessel refloated 0835/14 proceeding Kingston. Cargo intact, please inform Lloyds. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1010/14.)

Canadian Destroyers, NEWMARKET RICHMOND.

ASSINIBOINE RESTIGOUCHE COLUMBIA, ST. FRANCIS (Canadian destroyers) accompanied by NEWMARKET sail from Halifax 15/1 for St. John's Newfoundland and Greenock (route). RICHMOND joins my broad pendant at St. John's N.F. Expected time of arrival position "B" will be reported by N.O. i/c St. John's N.F. with departure signal. NEWMARKET RICHMOND will be detached to Belfast in position 055° 09' North 005° 45' 30" West. (S.O. Halifax Force, 1528/14. to C. in C. W.A.)

H.X. 100.

Is it certain that speeds of CRISTALES and CORRALES were below 13 knots? (D.T.D. 1838/14 to C.Q.A.C. Halifax.)

Canadian Corvettes.

And sweepers

Your 0003/13. It does not seem probable that 50% R.C.N. requirements can be satisfied earlier than end June 1941, or Corvettes and possible later for Minesweepers (see note (1) page 4 of Appreciation) but every effort is being made to expedite difficulty of manning and training situation is also a factor as it is not desired to detach ships to Admiralty until worked up to reasonable efficiency. (C.N.S. Canada, 1643/14. to Admty.)

SOEMBA.

SOEMBA Holland sailed Halifax 1/1 survivors returned to Halifax 9/1 in RYDBOHOLM Sweden. From reports of survivors of SOEMBA which (? loaded)(? drawn steel) at Philadelphia apparently sank as a result of cargo shifting. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1741/14. to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Raider Intelligence.

Pacific raiders, precis report concerning speed, hull, respective engine conditions on 21/12/1940. NARVIK at sea for at least 9 months. Long weeds on bottom. (A2). Normal maximum speed 21 knots now 19 knots. (B.2) Hull possibly damaged by TURAKINA shell fire. (C.4.) MANYO MARU. Normal maximum about 21 knots now about 19 knots due to slight fouling bottom and knocking diesels. (B.2.) TOKYO MARU. Normal maximum about 16 knots now about 14 - 15 slight fouling, knocking diesels. (B.2.)All 3 ships abnormally smoky. (A.1.) German engineer states due to unsuitable oil. (B.3.) (A.C.N.B.1115Z/14)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.1.1941.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FORTUNA

Arrival 13/1 Spanish ship MONTE NEGRO and FORTUNA (German) (Bilbao, 1933"14)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

PIEMONTE

Stated by an Italian Officer Prisoner of war from Albania to have been sunk in Valona by air attack. (D.S. 498)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

MENDOZA

My 19422313. At interview Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that as matter of form he would have to report to Panama the violation of 300 mile zone.
He also raised question of whether point of interception was outside the line Cape Santa Maria- Cape San Antonio which is claimed as the limit of the estuary of the River Plate.
H.M.Minister requests following information (one) Time and position of the interception (two) Time and position of boarding. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 0136Z/14 to R.A.S.A.D.)

French ship MENDOZA anchored Montevideo Roads 0006/14 (S.O.I., Montevideo 0115Z/14)

Your 2003/13. Fully appreciate necessity of avoiding incidents and regret ASTURIAS boarded inside territorial waters. It was considered most desirable to intercept MENDOZA as she was a test case. In view of B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1835/9 and limitations imposed by Admiralty's 0108/22/12* there would have been very little chance of interception had ASTURIAS not kept close to Const.
My hope had been that sighting ASTURIAS close in might cause MENDOZA to leave territorial waters and thus avoid possibility of incidents. (R.A.S.A.D., 0844/Z/14 to C. in C.,S.A.)

* re interception MENDOZA. Most secret.

/French ship...

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS-Contd.

MENDOZA-Contd

French ship MENDOZA sailed from Monte Video Roads 1515 G.M.T. today Tuesday, steering to eastward apparently making out to sea.
During Forenoon ship was visited by French officials from Monte Video.
(S.O.I., Montevideo, 1530Z/14, amended 1735Z/14)

Your 0136Z/14. 0422Z/13 position 082° 11.75 miles from Lobos Island light. As MENDOZA failed to comply with signals, ASTURIAS in order to prevent scuttling in this position and to avoid use of force attempted to head off MENDOZA. In so doing ASTURIAS crossed San Antonio- Santa Maria line.
Boats sent away at 0510Z/13 position 054° 11.2 miles from Lobos Island light.
(ASTURIAS 1500Z/14 to S.O.I. Montevideo.)

MENDOZA bearing 264° - 19 miles from Lobos Island at 2000Z/14 apparently keeping to Coastal route. (ASTURIAS 2000Z/14)

My 1530Z/14 French ship MENDOZA has now anchored in Punta Del Este Bay one and half miles N.W. of Gorriti Island. Port authorities have gone out to her.
Constant watch will be kept.
(S.O.I., Montevideo, 2159Z/14 to R.A.S.A.D.)

CAMPANA
KATIOLA
FORMOSE
AURIGNY

Present position French ships in Buenos Aires. CAMPANA no information ship's sailing but she is loading wheat and fuelling and could sail tomorrow.
KATIOLA embargo just lifted not fuelled.
FORMOSE rumoured treating for bunkers
AURIGNY no sign of movement. Not yet painted pre-war (? group omitted)
Close watch on all being kept.
(N.A., Buenos Aires, 1105/14 to R.A.S.A.D.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.1.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

EUMAEUS (sunk). British, 7472 tons. Torpedoed in position 8.55 N. 15.03 W. at 0658 G.M.T./14. (C. in C. S.A. 0905/14) (See S/M's attacked) (Freetown W/T 0658/14, Gibraltar W/T, 0801/14). S.O.S. EUMAEUS abandoning ship. (EUMAEUS 0804/14) Position about 112 miles W. of Freetown. (W. S. 497) Ship had 100 Service personnel for Far East on board (W.S.498).

Walrus sighted submarine 4 miles from EUMAEUS position at 0814 and attacked as submarine dived centre of (corrupt groups) as bombs landed leading edge of swirl left. Some oil and bubbles seen. Boats rafts and survivors located by aircraft. Trawler SPANIARD arrived about 1315 and picked up survivors possibly BENGALI as well now proceeding Freetown. Trawler PICTISIS and ENCOUNTER arrive area between 2000 - 2300. Number of survivors not yet known but 160 were reported in 2 boats and 2 rafts.
(C. in C. S.A. 1729N/14 to Admty).

My 1729N/14. Number of survivors picked up now reported as 305.
(C. in C. S.A. 1943N/14).

CAVINA.
(attacked 9/1) CAVINA's 0220/9/1/41 and 0255/9/1/41 C.A.F.O. 2972/39. CAVINA was hit in steel deckhouse on promenade deck by one shell from U-boat probably Italian. Ship is now berthed in No. 1 Princes Dock, Glasgow.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1450/14 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.1.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported.

0548) 0834)	54.20 N., 20° W. position indefinite (D.S. 496) Indications that Convoy W.S.5B. reported at these times. (D.D.I.C., 1107/4 to C.S.15, etc).
0408) 0457)	Bay of Biscay, very indefinite. (D.S. 496).
	German U-boat shadowing Convoy W.S.5B may be transmitting V's for D/F purposes on 516 kcs. (D.D.I.C. 1136 /4).
1657	D/F bearing from Baldock 265/1. Probably U-boat (D.D.I.C. 1800/14)
2158.	Italian U-boat possibly in position 40 to 50 miles west of Brest. (V.A.S. 2158/14 to S/M's Area B).
1855	In Heligoland Bight, position indefinite (D.S. 498).
2132	40 - 50 miles W of Brest (Italian) Indefinite. (D.S. 498).
0520	47.15 N., 2.19 W. 236° St. Nazaire 5'. Probable U/B sighted by Hampden A/C co S.E. (B.2) (D.S. 498).

Estimated U/B dispositions

German.

1 about 53° 20'N. 20°W. at 0834/14
1 about 51°N. 26° W.
1 about 48°N. 28° W.
3 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown but possibly.
(a) 57° - 58° N. 17° - 19° W.
(b) 58° - 60° N. 11° - 14° W.
(c) 55° N. 13° W.

1 in 8° 55'N. 15° 03'W. at 0800/14
1 in Bay of Biscay direction uncertain.

Italian.

1 in 6° 33'N. 12° 45'W. at 0100/14.
1 in Bay of Biscay outward bound.
3 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1442/14).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.1.1941.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

MILFORD attacked Submarine in position 6° 33' N., 12° 45' W., at 0030/14 Submarine was forced to surface but submerged immediately. MILFORD and BRIDGEWATER standing by. EUMAEUS was torpedoed in position 8° 55' N., 15° 03' W., at 0658 G.M.T. 14th. (C. in C., S.A. 0905/14 to Admty.)

Attack by Walrus on U-Boat at 0814 (C. in C S.A., 1729N/14) See Ships Attacked.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.1.1941
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Four 6000-7000 ton vessels of the Wilhelmsen Line are reported (c.3.) to have been taken over by the Germans and fitted as Armed Merchant Cruisers.

Operation "Parcel"

KING GEORGE V escorted by 4 Destroyers left Scapa at 1657 today to begin Operation "Parcel"; and the Corvette CLARKIA has been detailed to escort the SS AGNETE MAERSK from off Loop Head on the Shannon Estuary northabout to Dublin, with orders not to enter Irish Territorial waters.

British Air Activity

No aircraft were despatched last night by Bomber Command, owing to the weather. Two direct hits were obtained on a vessel off the coast of Norway, by aircraft of Coastal Command.

The weather caused offensive operations and patrols to be curtailed today.

An aircraft of Bomber Command bombed a steamer off the Dutch Coast.

C. in C., W.A., has requested that, as there is at present no confirmation of any damage to the HIPPER Class Cruiser at Brest, she may now be attacked by Skua Dive Bombers if these are available.

Enemy Air Activity

Steam Trawler STALKER was bombed and damaged off Grimsby today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.1.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Liverpool Area

While proceeding to Liverpool as A/A Guard-Ship ADVENTURE was damaged by a mine in Liverpool Bay at 0909 this morning but arrived safely at Noon; the Dredger MANCUNIAN was mined and sunk at 1725 some 2 miles N.E. of the Bar Light Vessel; the SS KARRI was mined and set on fire 2 miles N. of the Bar Light Vessel and was towed into harbour; and 2 mines were exploded today by LL sweeps in the Crosby Channel. The anchorage in Moelfre Bay was prohibited this evening; and 2 LL Whalers have been ordered to sail forthwith from Belfast to work temporarily at Liverpool.

The Humber was closed at 2130 tonight and is expected to remain so for several days; but the Tyne is now considered to be clear of Acoustic Mines and Diesel engined ships may proceed in an out of harbour under their own power for the present.

SS MAYWOOD was damaged by a mine off Barry today and was beached.

South Atlantic

An aircraft from NEWCASTLE landed at Punta del Este (Uruguay) early this morning, owing to lack of fuel. The crew have been detained.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.1.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

C. in C., Med., reported today to A.C.N.B. that the Australian ships VENDETTA, WATER HEN and VAMPIRE have been operating continuously from 12/12 to date on the Libyan Coast, in support of Army Operations. Their work has included coast bombardment, cover of inshore gunboat squadron, bringing up supplies, removal of prisoners and intercepting enemy coastal shipping. Their work has been carried out in face of opposition from the air and from shore batteries.

Benghazi harbour was attacked by Wellingtons last night.

Reconnaissance of the aerodrome at Catania today saw about 100 aircraft on the ground, of which 25 were German. Some 30 to 40 aircraft were seen to be burnt out or severely damaged.

East Indies

There were indications by D/F early this morning of an enemy unit to south-eastwards of Durban. RANCHI and SHROPSHIRE were sent to search and ENTERPRISE is to operate east of Durban.

MOST SECRET.

15. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

A.I.G.68.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Has been amended to include R.A.3., F.O.I.C. Iceland, and A.M.C's based on Halifax. (D.S.D.1947/15.)

CONGRE
LUCIENNE
JEANNE.

To be turned over to the Royal Navy for refitting and further service. (D.O.D.K. 2003/15 to C. in C. Nore.)

Free French Trawlers

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/15 (D.C.1156/15.) At 2330/15. (D.C. 2357/15.)

Movements.

JERSEY.

Sailed 1050 to R/V with REVENGE. (C. in C. W.A. 1127/15.)

REVENGE.

Your 0701/14 and 0100/14. Pass N at 0900/16. Route thence to Spithead. C. in C. Portsmouth 1227/15 to REVENGE.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1515/15.)

KASHMIR.
JUPITER.

Arrived Plymouth 1452.(C.in C.W.A. 1535/15.)

Operations.

SPECIMEN.

Request date of next operation for PEGASUS. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1258/15 to C. in C.W.A.) PEGASUS will be required to sail 20/1. (C. in C. W.A. 2241/15 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

MINNIE
DE
LARRINAGA.

V.A. Dover's 1642/8. Subject to mining situation and other priority requirements intend to sail MINNIE DE LARRINAGA to arrive Southend 1600/19. Sail 20/1, and to reach East Shingles before dark. Arrangements. (C. in C. Nore 1534/15 to V.A. Dover.)

/AGNETE.....

MOST SECRET.

15. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

AGNETE MAERSK. Negotiations to persuade Danish ship AGNETE MAERSK at present at Limerick to sail satisfactorily concluded. Cargo of phosphates to be discharged at Dublin. After discharge she will proceed to Clyde for seizure. A trawler as escort is required. Trawler should not enter Free State waters.(D.T.D.0108/15. to C. in C. W.A.) CLARKIA detached (MALLOW 2310/15.)

1. Detach 1 Corvette to meet S.S.AGNETE MAERSK in Position 270° Loop Head, 4 miles at 0001/17 and escort her northabout to Dublin. (2) Ship detailed is not to enter Eire territorial waters. Report name. (C. in C. W.A. 1651/15 to MALLOW.)

Operation PARCEL. Sailed from Scapa KING GEORGE V., SOMALI, MATABELE, BEDOUIN, TARTAR,(A.C.O.S.1657/15) Route and details (C. in C. H.F.1700/15 to Adty.) See Operations Volume.Request relevant Convoy Movements and other Intelligence may be communicated direct to KING GEORGE V. during Operation.(C. in C. H.F. 1701/15 to Adty.)

Submarines.

British S/M. Sighted correct British S/M Recognition Signal at 0932/15 in 120° 4 miles 42° 9' N. 20° 10' W. (MANISTEE 1111/15 to C. in C.W.A.) (A.C.W.A. 1525/15 to SCARBOROUGH.)

SUNFISH. Re patrol in Skagerrak. (V.A.S.2232/15.) See Operations Volume.

Positions. For 24 hours after 0800/16. (V.A.S.1742/15.)

/British.....

MOST SECRET.

15. 1. 41.
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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Ordered today STAND, HORNLI, IPOP Dusk. (C. in C. Rosyth 0734/15.) Cancelled for today UNST, HORNLI, FAIR. (C. in C. Rosyth 1236/15.)

Brest.

AP/761/15/1. 53 and 59 Sqdns. to attack tonight HIPPER-class Cruiser in dry-dock at Brest. (H.Q.C.C.1202/15 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.) 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight HIPPER-class Cruiser in dry-dock at Brest. (H.Q.C.C.1204/15 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

As there is at present no confirmation that Hipper Class Cruiser in Brest has been damaged, request she may be attacked by Skua Dive Bombers if these are available. (C. in C. W.A. 1829/15.)

Enemy Air Activity.

COWRIE.

(British Tanker, 8198 Tons) On arrival at Plymouth reports was machine-gunned by A/C at 2050/12 when 7 miles West of Bardsey Island. (C. in C. W.A. 1035/15.)

BEACHY.

(Rescue Ship, 1600 Tons.) Set on fire by A/C. at 1050/11 in 53°35' N. 16° 10'W. Detailed report by PEGASUS. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1256/15. to Adty.)

Fishing-Trawler. M.198.

Reports attacked by 3 Heinkels off Skellig Light on 13/1. No casualties.(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1500/15.)

GREYFRIARS. (Bombed 11/1.)

Refloated last night and has been safely towed to Hull. (F.O.Humber 1928/15.)

/Mining.....

MOST SECRET.

15. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

ADVENTURE. Mined in 53° 33' N. 3° 53' 30" W. Am ente ing. (ADVENTURE 0909/15 to N.O.I.C. Liver pool) Some damage and engine-room leakin Advisable to dock as soon as possible. (ADVENTURE 0914/15 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool) ADVENTURE arrived. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1201/15.)

Sweep of Q.Z.X.247. Sweeping carried out 0800/15. In Q.Z.X. 247 Folkestone Gate to Sandhead Buoy by 4 Oropesa Trawlers. Found one obstruction 050 degrees 2 miles from 'A' Buoy. (V.A.Dover 1104/15.)

Iceland-Faroes Minefield. A.M.1626/14. Proposals in my 1603/14 preferred. Reasons. (R.A.M.L. 1152/15 to Adty.) See Operations Volume. Position L as follows. (R.A.M.L. 1153/15 to Adty) See Operations.Volume.

A/C. Minelaying. For tonight.(H.Q.C.C. 1210/15 to 16 Group, N. Coates.)

Harwich Area. Sweep 14/1. FITZROY mined. F.M /S. cut and destroyed one German X star mine in position 51° 54' 40'N.01° 41' 52' E. at 1113/14 at commencement of sweep. Shortly after this GOSSAMER'S sweep dipped and it was decided to restart the lap. On passage to northward with sweeps not streamed FITZROY was mined by acoustic mine and, visibility decreasing rapidly, operation was abandoned. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1252/15.)

Harwich Area. A large underwater Explosion observed 2 to 3 miles 290° from 288° Shipwash Buoy ½ mile at 0922. No A/C or Ship near. (M/S. 6. 1431/15 to C. in C. Nore.) (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1756/15 to Adty.)

/ MAYWOOD ....

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

MAYWOOD. (British, 1823 Tons) Damaged by Mine in 51° 22' N. 3° 17' W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1517/15 to Adty.) Now beached in Whitmore Bay, Barry (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1826/15 to Adty.)

Swansea. Blue Mine exploded in 277° Breaksea Light Vessel 1½ miles. (N.O.I.C.Swansea 1640/15.)

Spontaneous Explosion reported by LL. Sweeper 1½ miles away in 174° Flatholm Light 1½ miles. No other vessel near. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1701/15.)

MANCUNIAN. (Canal Dredger) Mined and sunk 2 miles N.E. of Bar Light Vessel. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1725/15.)

KARRI. (380 Tons) Mined and on fire 2 miles North of Bar Light Vessel (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1725/15) Fire extinguished. Has been towed into harbour. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2035/15.)

FITZROY. (Fast Minesweeper) Flooded in all compartments and beached at hight water (Salvage Officer, Harwich 0500/15.) My 0847. Not ready for towing to dock for at least one week. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1722/15 to C. in C. Nore.) Shifting operation details. (Salvage Officer, Harwich 1730/16.)

Tyne. As this area may be considered to be clear of Acoustic Mines, propose that diesel engined ships should proceed in and out of harbour under their own power until next suspected Minelaying takes place. Request early reply may be given. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1737/15.)

/Liverpool.....

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Liverpool.

Two L.L.Whalers to be sailed forthwith to work temporarily at Liverpool. (D.M.S.1853/15 to F.O.I.C.Belfast.)

Mine report to 1800/15. 2 mines exploded by L.L. sweep between C 7 and C 8 buoys Crosby Channel. 3 mines detonated by vessels as in my 1725/15 and ADVENTURE. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2028/15 and 2104/15 to Adty.)

Anchorage in Moelfre Bay prohibited owing to Mines. Q.Z. has been requested. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2354/15.)

Ships for Methil with defective D.G.

When it is necessary to sail ships with defective D.G. to Methil, the Masters should be informed that this involves no appreciable added danger as the deep water on this passage is unsuitable for magnetic mines.(D.T.D. 2048/15 to N.C.S.O. Oban, Aultbea.)

Humber.

Closed. Expect for several days. (F.O.Humber 2132/15.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Potential Raiders.

For information. Reports graded C.3, received that the following Wilhelmsen Line vessels have been taken over by Germans and fitted out as A.M.C.'s:-

(1) TARONGA, 7003 tons, speed 20 knots in special trim.
(2) TEMPLAR, 6728 tons, speed 15½ - 16 knots in special trim.
(3) TULANE, 7,200 tons, 16 knots in special trim.
(4) TAIPING, renamed BOCKENHEIM, 6,728 tons, speed 15½ - 16 knots in special trim.

/This.....

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence Contd.

Potential Raiders.

This information has already been passed to other Authorities concerned. Other Wilhelmsen ships, including sister ships of the above, are trading to British account and may be encountered. (D.D.I.C. 1609/15, 1935/15.)

S.S. ERGO.

Finnish S.S. ERGO stopped by German Trawler off Vardo 26/12, and after a day's detention Kirkenes taken to Tromso released 10/1 arrived here yesterday. She reports only a few German trawlers seen at places touched and no other warships. One German Merchant Vessel at Tromso said to be German Ship salved from Narvik Name of Ship not known.(Vice Consul, Petsamo 1844/15 to D.N.I.)

TORDENSKJOLD.

My 2249/14. Returned to Tonsberg and not expected to leave till 17/1. Graded B.2. (D.D.I.C. 2002/15.)

MOST SECRET.

14. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

SOEMBA.	Sank apparently as result of cargo shifting (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1741/14.) See America and West Indies.
ROCK-BREAKER.	Arrived Colombo in tow of HIRAVATI. (S.O.I. Colombo, 1826Z/15.) See East Indies.
LIEUTENANT ROBERT MORY.	Unknown Ship ashore Middle Haisborough Buoy. (Humber Radio 0244/15.)Tug NORMAN sailed 0745/15 to assist. (N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0750/15.) KROOMAN and NORMAN arrived 2215/15 towing LIEUTENANT ROBERT MORY (British, 3176 Tons) (N.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth 2240/15.)
DUSKY QUEEN.	(Drifter) My 1823/9. Refloated yesterday and towed into Ramsgate Harbour.(V.A. Dover 0845/15.)
HAARLEM.	(British, 970 Tons) Not arrived in Convoy F.N.81. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1436/15 to N.C.S.O. Thames.)
BUITENZORG.	Wreck located. Position.(N.O.I.C. Oban 1532/15.)
FRODE.	(Norwegian, 697 Tons.) Arrived 1140 on fire. Beached in Lochnell Bay. All crew safe. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1650/15.)
FAXFLEET.	(British, 843 Tons) Ashore off Blakeney. Salvage in hand. (N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1748/15.)
BRITISH COMMODORE.	British Tanker, 6865 Tons, returned Clyde from O.B.C.274 with Engine defects.(N.C.S.O. Clyde 2030/15.)
HELMWOOD.	(British, 2156 Tons) Anchored and in difficulties at B.7. Buoy.(C. in C. Nore. 2055/15.) Tug KENIA will proceed under orde of GUILLEMOT.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2209/15 to C. in C. Nore.) KENIA sailed 0820.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0824/16.)

War Diary

15.1.1941
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.B.C. 274	2355/14 sailed O.B.C. 274, 8½ knots (list) (N.C.S.O., Clyde, 0015/15)
W.N. 69 (O)	List (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0905/15)
F.S. 87	40 ships. (F.O.I.C., 0932/15)
C.W. 23	457. Admiralty 2257/14. Request you will sail M.L. 1003 as escort with C.W. 23 due to sail 18/1. C. in C., Portsmouth requested to arrange onward passage to Swansea. (C. in C., Nore, 0900/15)
F.N. 85	Postponed 24 hours owing to fog. (C. in C., Nore, 0944/15)
F.N. 56	090° Wick 6 miles at 0900. (A.C.O.S., 0946/15)
W.N. 71	Code MUSTER 1900/17. H.M.Trawlers ELLESMERE S.O. SALTARELO. 16 ships. W.N.O. Code LIMITED- to rendevous with MUSTER off Ardnamurchan Point at 2330/18 (Alternative Daylight R/V) (N.C.S.O., Greenock, 1004/15)
O.G. 50 MARSDALE	MARSDALE leave Clyde p.m./16 in convoy O.G. 50. Leave convoy in latitude 48° N thence proceeding direct to areas R one and S one arriving approximately 25th. (F.O.C.N.P., 1006/15)
O.B. 274	Sailed O.B.O. 274. 0300/15/1/41. Escort DELPHINIUM. 9 Ships. (N.C.S.O., Oban, 1106/15)
W.N. 71	Sailed H.M.T.SALTARELO E.T.A. Campbeltown 1730 and for W.N. 71. (F.O.I.C., Belfast 1140/15)
	Movements to 1200/16.
F.N. 83	F.N. 83 at Outer Dowsing about 1200/15, proceeding position unknown owing to fog.
F.N. 85	F.N. 85 leaves Southend 0900/16
F.N. 87	F.S. 87 due Aldeburgh 0600/16
C.E. 22	C.E. 22 due Southend p.m./15. (C. in C., Nore., 1200/15)

War Diary

15.1.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	Shipping
W.N. 70	1148/15. H.M.Trawlers GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE 6 Ships. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1236/15)
E.N. 55	All six ships arrived (N.C.S.O., Oban 1238/15)
6. M/V's	Group six merchant vessels escorted by CAPE COMORIN and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE Needles to Dartmouth by the in shore route. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1253/15 to REVENGE)
	Intend to sail group of 6 M/V's escorted by CAPE COMORIN and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE from Needles 1830 for Dartmouth E.T.A. 0815/16. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1303/15)
F.N. 83	F.N.83 estimated passing Flamborough 2000/15
F.S. 88	F.S.88 passing Berwick 2000/15.
F.S. 89	F.S.89 sails Methil 2300/15.
E.N. 57	E.N.57 sailed Methil 1830/15. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1536/15)
O.B. 274	Sailed CAMELIA to catch up O.B. 274. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 1548/15)
F.S. 88	Sailed 1400/15 21 ships. (N.C.S.O., Methil 1549/15)
	Two ships from Humber joining at 62 D Buoy (N.C.S.O., Humber 1716/15)
F.S. 92	My 1329/10. Amend sailing time to read 2300/21. Amend escorts to read FLEETWOOD and COTSWOLD+ (C. in C., Rosyth, 1935/15)
W.N. 71	As W.N. 69 (O) failed to rendezvous with Clyde Section it is to be sailed in W.N. 71. (C. in C., W.A., 1723/15 to N.C.S.O.Oban)
C.E. 22	Following ships arrived today. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1813/15)
4 Sailed	My 1303/15. Sailed 4 M/V's escorted by CAPE COMORIN and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1927/15)
E.N. 57	1830/15. H.M.T's ULLSWATER, STELLA POLARIS Additionnal escort WESTON. 23 Ships. 1 for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1929/15)

/3 M.V's.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	**Shipping**
3 M/V's	Intend sailing group of 3 M/V's, including one loaded tanker escorted by PEARL and CORNELIAN from Dartmouth at 1830/16. E.T.A., Needles 0800/17. N.O.I.C., Dartmouth 2226/15)
F.S. 88 E.N. 57	FLEETWOOD and GARTH with F.S. 88 STELLA POLARIS, ULLSWATER and WESTON with E.N. 57 latter as additional escort to Pentland Firth, includes KIRRIEMOOR for Oban for onward routeing, BAY FISHER for Scapa, BRITISH TOMMY for Aberdeen. WALLACE and
F.S. 89	VIVIEN with F.S. 89. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2305/15)
F.S. 89	Sailed 2300/15. 13 ships. (N.C.S.O., Methil, 2331/15)
3 M/V's	Intend sailing unescorted at 1630/16 3 M/V's to Hartland Gap. (N.C.S.O., Dartmouth, 2348/15)
Ocean Convoys	
O.G. 50	Every endeavour should be made to sail CISCAR from Barry to catch O.G. 50. CISCAR carried important military stores for Gibraltar. (D.O.D. (H) 1208/15 to C. in C., W.A.,)
S.L.S. 60	Arrived Leith GEORGETOWN escorting S.L.S. 60 also A/S trawler KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1259/15)
H.G. 49 S.L.S. 60	Convoy H.G. 49 and S.L.S. 60 arrived (N.C.S.O., Mersey, 1446/15)
H.X. 102 H.X. 103 S.C. 19	Re query by C.O.A.C., Halifax concerning 134/12, requesting confirmation if Admty., 1707/7 is understood and Commodores instructed in accordance with para (3) (D.T.D. 1550/15)
H.X. 100	Code words for convoy H.X. 100 are as follows: H.X.,BROOM TWO; HXO, JUMBO TWO; HXB, CANTON TWO, HXBM, PIANO TWO; (D.T.D. 2352/15)

/ATHELKING....

Shipping-Contd.

ATHELKNIGHT — Regretted that this signal was not repeated to you (Begins) G.B.M.S., Area 1. From Admty, for ATHELKNIGHT only for Commodore. Alter course forthwith through position 360° 45 miles from Lark and then disperse 1638/14 (Ends) (D.T.D., 1107/15 to C. in C., W.A.)

OROPESA — Alter course forthwith to a position 046° 160' from position H, thence to a position 289° 150' fron I. Thence to a position 000° 50 miles from I. ignoring I. (D.T.D. 1746/15 to G.B.M.S.1 for OROPESA only)

Troop Convoys

WARWICK CASTLE — Alternative route from North Channel given in A.N. 2231/3 should not be used nor given. (D.T.D. 1143/15 to N.C.S.O. Clyde.)

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

CANTAL. CANTAL from Martinique to Casablanca and Marseilles brought in under armed guard (cargo). Vessel detained pending instructions. (C.C.S.O., Gibraltar, 1025/15. to Admty.)

SAN FRANCISCO. Repatriations. Your 1340/14 is it known what accommodation is likely to be available in steamship SANFRANCISCO for Vichy French who are being repatriated from Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.A., 1240/15 to Admty.)

Dakar Intelligence. Following from Navy Department, from Dakar 18/1 departures French Ships SAVOIE, SINFRA and GRADDIER for Conakry, with native troops said to be about to be demobilised. Arrivals AISNE and CARAIBE from South Libolli with African troops from North and East Togoland, 12 from Marseilles with coal.(N.A. Washington, 1249/15 to Admty.)

6 Vichy Ships. You may encounter 6 Vichy ships escorted by warships of destroyer type bound from Guinea Coast Northwards estimated position 1200/16 008° 31' N 016° W Speed 8.5 knots. (S.O.(1) Freetown 1810/15 to CANTON.)

North Atlantic

FEARLESS FORESTER. If unable to arrive with 2 hours of daylight in hand on 18/1 speed should be adjusted to arrive Northern Entrance at 0800 z minus 1, 19/1. (F.O.C.N.A. 1030/1 to FEARLESS, FORESTER.

Ammunition. A.M.1140/10. MONARCH OF BERMUDA and /or CAPETOWN CASTLE should also embark at Gibraltar all available 5.25 inch ammunition. A.M.1401/11. 5.25 reserves for Alexandria will be dispatched in W.S.6. 5.25 reserves for Gibraltar will leave U.K. next opportunity.(D.T.S.D. 1337/15 to F.OC.N.A. A.S.,Alexandria.)

/OLYMPUS.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.1.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

OLYMPUS OSIRIS	Position of submarines at 0800/16/1 and movements for the following 24 hours. (a) OLYMPUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada (b) OSIRIS 058° 20' N.,011° W., course 002. speed 10 knots proceeding on the surface. (F.O.C.N.A., 1440/15)
URSULA Operation L.A.	S.O.Force H. 1255/14. Leaves Gib. 1800/16 for operation L.A. (F.O.C.N.A., 1820/15 to C. in C., Med.etc.)
Air Report	X 2218. Flying curtailed owing to weather (200 Group 1720/15)

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

A/C from NEWCASTLE.

Naval aircraft from NEWCASTLE landed Punta Del Este at 0100 G.M.T. 15/1 due to lack of fuel. Crew three safe, no damage to plane. Port authorities have detained crew pending representations by H.M. Minister. (S.O.I. Monte Video, 0240Z/15 to R.A.S.A.D.)

My 0240 z/15. In view of present circumstances H.M. Minister is doubtful if it will be possible to avoid interning aircraft and crew. (S.O.I. Monte Video, 1405Z/15, to R.A.S.A.D.)

MOUNT LYCABETTUS.

Air reconnaissance reported. Greek ship LYCABETTUS in 35 - 17 S 25 - 10 E at 0755/14, steering east. No previous information has been received regarding movements of this ship.(S.N.O. Simonstown, 0840/15. to C. in C. E.I.)

My 0840/15. Ship's name should read MOUNT LYCABETTUS. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1035/15.)

Survivors. from RUMARUS. (torpedoed 14/1.)

Request information whether Naval survivors from RUMARUS who arrived at Freetown in two trawlers 0200/15 shall be sent on to destination if medically fit or should return to U.K. Opportunity for return to U.K. occurs in FURIOUS and NEPTUNE sailing 16/1. Request immediate reply. (C. in C.S.A., 1047N/15 to Admty.) Had on board 100 Service personnel for Far East. (D.S.498,)

My 1047/15. Unlikely now that any personnel will be available to leave in FURIOUS and NEPTUNE sailing 0900/16. (C. in C. S.A. 1835N/15 to Admty.)

Your 1047/15. It is intended all those medically fit should proceed in W.S.5.B. (D.O.D.(F), 2231/13, to C. in C. S.A.)

/Request.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.1.1941
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Survivors from EUMAEUS (Torpedoed 14/1) Contd.

Request you will investigate and report reason for EUMAEUS being in this position 8° 55' N., 15° 03' W., when torpedoed. She was routed for Capetown through the following positions-: 15° N., 21° 30'W., 9° N., 21° 30' W., Equator 10° W. (D.T.D., 1304/15 to C. in C., S.A.)

Shipping

Southbound ships crossing 20° North for Cape. Approximate Noon position 16/1 and Routes. (D.T.D., 1106/15 to S.A., Station)

Italian Air Liner

Italian air liner I-BAYR left Pernambuco for Rome via Natal 14/1 carrying double crew of 8 one service passenger and German diplomatic courier Alexander Safarowsky. Also 385 k.g. mail and 606 k.g. of parcels. (British Consul, Pernambuco 1405/15 to Admty.)
(D.S. 498 states came down in the sea p.m./15 near St. Paul's Rocks about half way across Atlantic)

ISIS ENCOUNTER

Arrived 1500/15 (S.O.I. Freetown, 1621/15 to Admty.)

FURIOUS NEPTUNE ISIS ENCOUNTER

FURIOUS and NEPTUNE escorted by ISIS and ENCOUNTER are to leave Freetown, first ship past boom 0900/16 and proceed at speed of advance 16½ knots by following route:- FURIOUS is to detach ISIS and ENCOUNTER in position (c) to proceed to Gibraltar (route and time of arrival) (C. in C., S.A., 1815N/15)

Shipping Routes

Routeing of homeward independent ships between Freetown and Cape Verde Islands appears to be restricted to a narrow lane. Is there any reason why wider dispersal cannot be effected? (D.T.D., 1923/15 to C. in C., S.A.)

W.S. 5 B FEARLESS FORESIGHT

Ad iralty's 1624/6. Request information as early as possible whether FEARLESS, FORESIGH and escorted ships will join W.S. 5 B before arrival Freetown and also anticipated time and date of joining. Important for A/S escort of convoy as a whole that they should join as early as possible. (C. in C., S.A., 2059N/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.1.1941
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

URSULA

Your 1255/14 (Proposed URSULA sails to Malta via Gibraltar also to visit Genoa to obtain information regarding enemy patrol) Concur. The additional delay of 4 days can be accepted. (C. in C., Med. 0851/15 to S.O.Force H.)

M.E. 6.

Convoy M.E. 6 arrived 14/1. (N.O.I.C., Port Said 1009/15 to Admty.)

PERTH

PERTH completes rebricking 1800/16. Rebricked boiler can be lit up by mid night but PERTH could leave by 2000 with steam for 24 knots. (V.A.Malta, 1045/15 to C. in C., Med.)

Your 1045/15. PERTH should leave for Suda Bay at dusk/17 with all boilers efficient, to join YORK for Aegean duty. (C. in C., Med., 1601/15 to V.A.Malta)

Air Attack Benghazi

Operational Summary No 219 up to 1200/15. 1 Egypt. Night January 13/14. 5 Wellingtons dropped 11250 lbs. of bombs on Benghazi harbour hitting the Central Mole alongside ships moored there, the Mole D'Italia and the north east corner of the Cathedral Mole. 3 Wellingtons subsequently machine gunned from a low height a search light and also a coastal battery north east of Benghazi.

Day 14/1. No bombing operations. No change in military situation Tobruk.

2. Greece. Day 14/1. No bombing operations. One Sunderland reconnoitred Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping. H.Q.,R.A.F., M.E., 1154/15)

PANDORA
2 Supply Ships Attacked

PANDORA reports (a) shipping off Pantellaria hug shore and leave North end of Island on course (?86° or ?331°) suggesting a passage through Italian declared minefield.

/PANDORA.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterrancan

PANDORA
2 Supply Ships Attacked-Contd.

PANDORA suggests British minefield laid close to North End of Island should be (?) effective. (b) Between 0800 and 0900 9/1 PANDORA fired four torpedoes at two unescorted supply ships each 5000 tons flying Italian flag steering 190° in position 039° 22' N., 009° 50' E., Both ships observed hit each by one torpedo and left sinking. One ship carried deck cargo of motor buses. Flying boat patrol forced PANDORA deep. 5 and 8 hours later distant depth charges heard. (F.O.C.N.A., 1234/15) One of the 2 ships claimed sunk on 9/1 was possibly PALMA, 2715 G.T. which sent out an S.O.S. on this date giving her longitude as 9.40 E., but latitude was not received. (D.S. 498)

Otranto Minefields

Two reports have been received in the last few days stating that minefields are now being laid, or are about to be laid, in the Straits of Otranto.
One report was from the Greek Minister in London and has probably been passed to you. The other (Graded B.O.) is from most secret sources. (D.D.I.D., 1409/15 to C. in C., Med.)

Tanker For Malta

Re Admty. 2017/10/10 and my 0927/ (date omitted) Information is requested whether tankers of this type are being sent. Under present conditions which greatly increase difficulty of safely passing convoy into Malta the problem would be greatly eased by presence of a high speed tanker. (C. in C., Med., 1525/15 to Admty.)

Shipments from Tunis to Italy

S.O.(I) Malta 2359/12 para: C.
If information about despatch of Toluene from La Goulette can be obtained, most important to prevent arrival in Italy if practicable. (D.E.W.D., 1537/15 to C. in C., Med.)

/TRUANT.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.1.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

TRUANT
Enemy Transports

TRUANT reports large enemy transports seen leaving Tripoli (Libya) from position A at northern end of main searched channel on steady course (?) 320° on 2 occasions but no ships were seen entering. It is possible ships entering from north westwards (corrupt group) coast (corrupt group) MARSA ZUAGA Nothing was sighted in area S. (Capt. S.1. 1603/15 to S.O. S/M Malta Force)

REGENT

Leave position 032° 51'., 015° 16' at 1800/17. to arrive Alexandria sanctuary Proceed through 032° 14' 019; 48' thence along coast to spend daylight hours 20 miles off Apollonia thence through 032° 48' to Alexandria (Capt. S. 1., 1643/15 to REGENT)

Intelligence
Savona,
Genoa.

Following from Dutch master at Savona and Genoa between 19th Dec. and 8th Jan (B.2.)
(a) Presence of contact minefields unlikely as direct route was taken from Savona to Genoa on to his departure course.
(b) No warship at Genoa with exception of small craft, some employed minesweeping to Southern part of Eastern entrance of harbour.
(c) No barrage balloons.
(d) Strict blackout enforced both places
(e) Local gossip indicates large percentage British bombs fail to explode.
(f) General morale and war enthusiasm low.
(g) Apprehension of air raids very great.
S.O.I., Gib., 1708/15 to D.N.I.)
(As regards (e) see Admty 1801/15 and Force H. 2255/16)

Work of
Australian
Destroyers

During period 12/12 to date VOYAGER, VENDETTA, WATERHEN and VAMPIRE under Captain Waller R.A.N., have been operating continuously on Libyan Coast in support of Army Operations. Their work has included coast bombardment, cover inshore gunboat squadron, bringing up supplies, and removal of prisoners, and intercepting enemy coastal shipping. The work has been of great value and carried out in face of a good deal of opposition from air as well as from shore batteries. (C. in C., Med., 1739/15 to A.C.N.B., Melbourne.)

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Cont'd.

Malta.
Air Report

Combined services report up to 1700 15/1. All times G.M.T. 0837-1114. Glenn Martin recco' Taranto Harbour and Catania Aerodrome. Taranto abandoned due adverse weather. Catania aerodrome photographed (details)
Sunderland recco' Western Ionian Sea abandoned as impossible to take off in swell.
1005-1-12. One enemy aircraft reported asHeinkel 111 or Junkers 88 approached from North and circled over Grand Harbour at 21,000 feet. Engaged by A.A. no bombs dropped. Mission presumably recco'. (H.Q., R.A.F., Med., 1750/15)

ARK ROYAL
Bombs

Your 1106/14. Report immediately.
(a) What type of bomb is referred to.
(b) What fuzing components were used.
(c) Height of release
(d) If long delay pistols were used, how many and what delays.
(e) Whether there have been any blinds on previous occasions with this same type of bomb.
The 250 pound G.P. bomb used by Swordfish is identical in all respects with those used by R.A.F. (S.S.L. 1801/15 to S.O. Force H) Reply. (S.O. Force H., 2255/16)

Italian
Intelligence

Reports of Italian troops disembarked at Durazzo and ships unloading in that port Bombing of port. Bombing of port proposed (N.A. Belgrade 1806/15)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U.S.8. CAPETOWN. ANTENOR. CANBERRA.

Convoy U.S. 8 leaves Colombo 0530Z/16. Orders and routes to CAPETOWN, ANTENOR. CANBERRA. (C. in C. E.I. 1038Z/15) See Operations Vol.

Enemy Unit.

Raise steam. There are D/F indications of an enemy unit to South eastwards of Durban.
(C. in C. E.I. 0236Z/15 to SHROPSHIRE).

RANCHI. SHROPSHIRE.

My 0236/15. RANCHI proceed best speed to position A. My 0742/12 refers. SHROPSHIRE join RANCHI as soon as ready. Both ships patrol in the vicinity of position A as arranged by SHROPSHIRE.
(C. in C. E.I. 0600Z/15).

Durban departures in accordance with C. in C. East Indies 0600Z/15. RANCHI 0928 G.M.T./15 SHROPSHIRE 1040 G.M.T/15.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1040Z/15).

RANCHI to meet SELANDIA.

My 0600/15 Subject to no enemy intelligence being received RANCHI is to be detached so as to meet SELANDIA off Durban at 0600 Z/17 and escort her to 022° 30' south RANCHI is then to patrol in accordance with my 0742/12.
(C. in C. E.I. 1926Z/15 to SHROPSHIRE).

Distress Message. STAFFORDSHIRE.

Your 1106 B/14 (S.O.S. message - whether any further information) Regret no.
(A.C.N.B. 0421/15 to S.O.I. Capetown.).

Wheat in store at Bunder Shapur.

Rumour that HANSA ship in Bunder Shapur will be used as storage for wheat.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0626Z/15).

/COCKCHAFER.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

COCKCHAFER in Shatt-el-Arab.

S.N.O. Persian Gulf's 1154/14.
(i) Concur with action taken by S.N.O. Persian Gulf.
(ii) My views would be Iran having no jurisdiction over Iraqi side of navigable channel cannot object to a belligerent warship anchoring there but there may be a special agreement of which I am not aware. Request guidance.
(iii) For information, Article 2 of Reglement de Sekour contains Iranian Government instructions regarding notice of visit by foreign warships to Iranian ports or passage of territorial waters, together with duration visit, in peace-time.
(C. in C. E.I. 0640/15 to Admty).

Your 1150/14. The Iranian regulations appear to contravene treaty with Iraq and to have been issued without knowledge of Iraq Authorities. Request to COCKCHAFER was made with courtesy and movement of vessel was made clear by C.O. to be an act of courtesy. Propose to raise question of the legality of the regulations published by Iranians through port director to Iraq Authorities. Consider it is not advisable to pursue matter with Teheran.
(N.O.I.C. Basra 0950Z/15 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf and C. in C. E.I.).

ENTERPRISE.

Your 1529B/14 (re future employment of ENTERPRISE). Intend Force T. which includes ENTERPRISE shall operate in the area to the east of Durban in the first place, subject to raider intelligence at the time.
(C. in C. E.I. 0720Z/15 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

/Air Report.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (contd).

Air Report Assab attacked convoy escorts.

Summary No. 217 and Operational Summary. Following for 24 hours ending 1500 15/1. Following 8 Squadron night sorties attacked stores and warehouses Assab. 1 Blenheim dropped 1000 lbs. bombs in 2 medium level sticks bursts observed well in target area. 0120. 1 Blenheim dropped 1000 lbs. bombs in low dive attack all bombs in area starting 1 large fire visible 35 miles. 6 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided fighter escorts 3 for convoy BS 12¾ and 3 for convoy SW4B 1 operating from advanced base Kamaran.
(A.H.Q. Aden 1617/15).

Troop Transport B.S.13.

"Emily". The 26 officers and 340 British other ranks for Port Sudan shut out of TALMA should be embarked at Suez in VARSOVA on 17/1. S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area is requested to sail VARSOVA and TALMA for Suez on completion of disembarkation to embark prisoners of war for Bombay for sailing next B.S. Convoy.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1743/15 to G.H.Q. Middle East).

ROCKBREAKER.

Colombo arrival 0900z/15 H.M.I.S. HIRAVATItowing ROCKBREAKER.
(S.O.I. Colombo 1826z/15).

Convoy Telegrams.

For N.C.S.O's. Convoy sailing telegrams should in future be sent in two parts.
(D.T.D. 1847/15 to C. in C. E.L and Med)

COLOMBO defects

COLOMBO now on Kismayu Patrol is proceeding to Mombasa with engine defects. Date on which patrol will be reestablished will be signalled later. Air H.Q. East Africa and M.E. please pass to Force Nairobi and G.H.Q. Cairo.
(C. in C. E.I. 2032Z/15 to A.H.Q. East Africa CERES, etc.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.1.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Germans in Japan.

According to Fess records 29 German Pilots and Air Technicians, 18 members of Tanker Crews, at least nine ex GRAF SPEE and various enemy agents have reached Japan from America in Japanese Ships since August 1940. It is reasonable to assume these have either returned to Germany or are working against us in Japan. As American "Aid to Britain" bill suggest much wider coOoperation than at present, propose American Authorities be invited to assist in enforcing ASAMA MARU agreement.
(C. in C. China 0406Z/15 to Admty).

BANCKERT.

Sunda Strait departure 0800/15 Dutch Destroyer BANCKERT passing through 010° 00'S. 101° 00'E. and 006° 00'N. 088° 30'E. thence Sabang speed 14 knots. Seaplanes are coOoperating with her.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore 0428Z/15 to C. in C. E.I).

DURBAN.

Rangoon departure 13/1 DURBAN for Andamans.
(S.O.I. Singapore 0951Z/15).

Raider.

(f) No raider activity report but D/F fix places one at Kerguelan Island 2117 12th January.
(C.O.S. Singapore 1401/Z/15).

Indo-China Trade.

Following from Foreign Office. My 1946/14 Part I first sentence. You may accept proposed agreement regarding mutual abstention from propaganda in form suggested in your 0904/28/13. Pat I sub para B.
(D.N.I. 1912/15 to C. in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Ship sighted by SS TYDOLGAS thought to be raider.	N.A. Washington 1001/8 cannot trace ship in Vesca report. Have you been able to identify. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1146/15).
NERISSA.	Anticipate NERISSA will sail Halifax (date) 178 Air Force personnel embarking. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1343/15 to Admty).
Canadian Destroyers and NEWMARKET for U.K.	Halifax depature 15/1 ASSINIBOINE RESTIGOUCHE, COLUMBIA, ST. FRANCIS and NEWMARKET U.K. via St. Johns N.F. (S.O.I. Halifax 1630/15).
ROYAL SOVEREIGN. H.X. 103.	H.M.S. ROYAL SOVEREIGN ocean escort H.X. 103. (S.O.I. Halifax 1631/15 to Admty etc).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA. attitude of Uruguay.

My 0136Z/14. Minister for Foreign Affairs has received report presented by Captain of MENDOZA. He has indicated to H.M. Minister that he will be compelled to present strong note of protest unless we can produce counter evidence. H.M. Minister has therefore presented further note on lines of your 1808Z/13 but omitting to mention that boarding boat went inside three mile limit. H.M. Minister has informed Foreign Office that unless he receives further facts or considerations he feels it would be best to present a prompt apology for technical breach and he has asked F.O. for guidance. (S.O.I. Montevideo 0105Z/15 to R.A.S.A.D).

MENDOZA still anchored at Maldonada Bay at 1215 G.M.T./15.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 1232Z/15 to R.A.S.A.D.).

Position of ASTURIAS.

Your 1808Z/13 and your 0844Z/14. I understand reasons why ASTURIAS was close in to shore for interception but am not clear why sighting of ASTURIAS should encourage MENDOZA to leave sharply. It is important to make a clean job of it if possible in these cases as you have appreciated but always a difficult problem. I do not consider your 1521Z/10 suggests restrictions were cancelled. Your 1522Z/10 has been repeated to Admiralty as requested.
(C. in C. S.A. 1235N/15 to R.A.S.A.D).

Suggested Regrets.

Following is the substance of telegram to Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador Buenos Aires (who is at present in Montevideo) and who has seen signals relating to MENDOZA (Begins) Am convinced earliest expression of regret as proposed by H.M. Minister Montevideo is desirable and would also much relieve Argentine Government. (Ends) (S.O.I. Montevideo 1537/15 to R.A.S.A.D.).

MENDOZA position.

At 1615Z/15 MENDOZA 337° 2.5 miles from Lobos (Corrupt groups) light proceeding northward in territorial waters.
(ASTURIAS, 1615Z/15 to R.A.S.A.D.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS. (contd).

MENDOZA weighed at 1520 G.M.T. and now proceeding to Northward close in to land.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 1636Z/15 to R.A.S.A.D.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.1.1941.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ROBERT LEY. — 27288 tons. Reported passed Gothesburg 23/12 on passage from Norway and wearing Red Cross. If true, this disposes of Rotterdam report of 23/4/40 that she had been sunk by torpedo or mine in Skagerrak on night of 12-13/4 with a loss of 850 troops (D.S. 498).

MARS. — Tonnage unknown. Reported at 1650/14 aground at Schellenkuhlen and required assistance. (D.S. 498).

BORKUM. — Pilot steamer, reported 2220/14 stranded on Schildgruend and abandoning ship. Drifter standing by and all crew present (D.S.498).

EMILE MAERSK. — Denish, reported at 1910/14 aground near Borkum with rudder broken and immediate assistance necessary to save ship and cargo (D.S. 498).

FORTUNA. — C.A.F.O. 422/40 No. 208 (FORTUNA) expected to leave Bilbao last night at 9 knots for Biscay port.
(V.A.S. 1129/15 to S/M on Patrol Area B).

ORINOCO. — Following from Navy Department. Stated by American Consul Tampico that German ship ORINOCO is planning departure though there are no specific details of any preparations to this end.
(N.A. Washington 1255/15 to Admty).

ATLAS.
LIVORNO. — January 14th arrival German Steamships ATLAS, LIVORNO.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 2015/15)
(First reported movement of LIVORNO since September 1939).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

STELLA.
MAGGIO XXIV.
AEQUITAS.

Italian ships at Pernambuco.
STELLA now transferring 4000 tons of her cargo to Brazilian MERITY.
MAGGIO XXIV discharging 2000 tons to local flour mills. At Rio de Janeiro AEQUITAS discharged cargo.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 2321Z/15 to S.A.D).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

EUMAEUS. (Torpedoed 14/1) Disposal of survivors and question as to route.
(See South Atlantic).

MEMNA. Greek, 5101 tons. Torpedoed 2100/15.
(See Diary 18/1).

BRITISH PREMIER. (torpedoed 24/12). My 2109/9 (re British Tanker PREMIER torpedoed and sank, submarine did not surface, but survivors state that periscope was seen ½ mile from ship). From further investigations S/M did surface when it was too dark to identify. U 25 class appears most likely.
(C. in C. S.A. 1720/15 to Admty).

S/M's Reported.

0930. 42.07 N. 20.09 W. 265° C. Finisterre 492'. Reported by H.M.S. MANISTEE (D.S. 499) MANISTEE 1111/15, no British submarines were in the vicinity (C. in C. W.A. 1619/15 to MANISTEE, SCARBOROUGH).

0845. My 0845 possibly S/M on surface. Investigated but cannot contact. (PANDANGO 1000/15 to N.O.I.C. Greenock, Belfast etc).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

German.

1 was between 52°N. and 53°N. 20°W. and 21°W. noon 14th.
2 may be between 47°N. and 51°N. 25°W.
1 about 56° 30'N. to 57° 30'N. near 20°W.
1 about 55°N. 20°W.
Possibly 1 within 200 miles to westward of Bloody Foreland.
1 may be between Faroes and Hebrides outward bound.
1 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 outward bound may be about 46°N. to 47°N. 10°W. to 12°W.
1 near 9°N. 15°W.

Italian.

1 in 6°33'N. 12°45'W. 0100/14.
2 in or to westward of Bay of Biscay.
2 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1340/15).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.

Have attacked doubtful U-Boat in position 050°N. 022°30'W. Presence not confirmed.
(BEAGLE 1038/15 to Admty).

Am searching with BRILLIANT.
Have not regained contact.
(BEAGLE 1410/15).

BEAGLE reports doubtful contact in position 050°N. 022°30'W. at 1038/15.
(C. in C. W.A. 1521/15 to W.A. Command).

Search abandoned due to lack of fuel.
(BEAGLE 1900/15).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.1.1941
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

E-Boats off Southwold

3 E-Boats were sighted off Southwold at 2040 this evening by WOOLSTON escorting a Convoy, but were driven off by WOOLSTON before they could develop an attack.

Western Channel Patrol

Very's Lights and Flashes were reported to the southward of the Eddystone at 2045 tonight and KASHMIR, JUPITER (on Western Channel Patrol) and 6 motor launches were ordered to investigate; but nothing was seen.

Raider Reports

The Wilhelmsen Ship TAI PING is reported today (C.3) to be ready to sail from Oslo as a raider.

An unknown ship reported being gunned this evening by an armed merchant raider, about 600 miles west of the Fastnet. The message was cancelled shortly afterwards; the origin and form of cancellation are suspicious, and the incident is obscure.

British Air Activity

A Heavy Air Attack was made last night upon Wilhelmshaven, fires being started which could be seen more than 100 miles away; and Borkum, Bremerhaven, Flushing, Emden, and Rotterdam were also attacked.

The weather today necessitated the cancellation or recall of all air patrols in the Rosyth area and the abandonment of air escorts for convoys in the N.W. Approaches. Only a few special patrols were flown.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.1.1941
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

In view of the attacks being made on shipping by enemy aircraft, C. in C., W.A. asks that N.C.S.O's at home and overseas may be directed to again impress on Commodores and Masters the necessity for flying kites by day when in the danger zone.

The Convoy F.S. 87 was attacked by one A/C at 0927 this morning off Harwich without result.

Eight H.E.Bombs were dropped on Ramsgate soon after midnight this morning causing serious damage to houses but only one civilian casualty; and at Dover bombs were dropped at 0156 and at 0322; no casualties or Naval damage are reported.

Convoy O.B. 2746 Attacked SS ONOBA SS MENANDROS Hit

Convoy O.B. 274 was attacked at 1215 in the N.W. Approaches, Dutch tanker ANOBA was abandoned and sank during the night. MENANDROS (Greek) was abandoned but was taken in tow by ARBUTUS. Tugs were sent.

Mining

Minelaying in Thames Estuary

Enemy minelaying aircraft were active last night probably off the north east coast and in the Thames Estuary.

In the Thames Estuary one mine was detonated and the LL trawler DESIREE was sunk. The problem of protecting the Estuary from Minelaying aircraft is being examinied by C. in C., Nore in conjunction with the Fighter Command.

/The Tyne....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.1.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

The Tyne was opened to Diesel driven vessels under their own power at 0052 and the Humber was re-opened to navigation this afternoon, and Milford Haven, where the Examination vessel ROMSEY was disabled by a mine this afternoon and the only available S.A.Gear has been reported defective, was closed at 2320 tonight.

Cardiff was opened at 1447 but was closed again at 2335. Mines were detonated by LL sweepers off the Manacles and Falmouth. Another mine was detonated this evening near the Bar Light Vessel at Liverpool, where 2 LL Whalers from Belfast are due to arrive early tomorrow morning.

U-Boat Campaign

OROPESA, 14,118 tons, independently routed Capetown for Liverpool, was torpedoed early this morning 150' N.W. of Bloody Foreland and subsequently sank.

ZEALANDIC, 10578 tons, independently routed Liverpool for Brisbane was torpedoed at 2248 further to the north-west.

Vichy French

The 50 mile restriction off the Brazilian Coast is cancelled. French meat ships may be intercepted anywhere outside territorial waters except west of the line Cape Santa Maria- San Antonio.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.1.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

URSULA (Submarine) left Gibraltar at 1815 for Operation L.A. (enemy trade, Barcelona and Genoa)

South Atlantic

Raider

There are indications of a German surface unit within 100 miles of 25° W., PRETORIA CASTLE and Convoy S.L.S. 62 have been informed.

FURIOUS and NEPTUNE, escorted by ISIS and ENCOUNTER, left Freetown today for U.K. Destroyers will be detached to Gibraltar.

Force "Shrapnel"

Force "Shrapnel", which proceeded to West Africa at the time of the projected operations at Dakar, is to return to U.K as soon as possible.

Sunderlands for Freetown

3 Sunderland flying boats are to operate under C. in C., S.A., for anti-submarine work, with Freetown as their main base and Bathurst as an advanced fuelling base.

Mediterranean

Catania aerodrome was heavily attacked by R.A.F. Wellingtons last night.

Simultaneously about 12 enemy aircraft from Catania raided Malta. In a later raid on Malta by some 70 aircraft, damage was done in the dockyard, ESSEX (M.T.Ship) was badly damaged, ILLUSTRIOUS hit and slightly damaged, and PERTH damaged by near misses. PERTH left for Alexandria at 2200.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

MOOLTAN.

To be taken in hand at London for conversion to troop carrier. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail her there and to make such arrangements with C. in C. Nore as are considered necessary.
(D.O.D.H. 1233/16).

Admiralty's 1233/16/1. As MOOLTAN retains A/A armament consider that she should be sailed in F.S. Fast convoy. F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail her accordingly reporting convoy in which she will sail.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1801/16 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Western Patrol. Areas Y1, Y2, Y3.

In future Western Patrol Trawler Patrol areas will be referred to as Y 1 Y 2 and Y 3 instead of T 1 T2 and T 3 in order to avoid confusion with dangerous zones patrolled by A.M.C's and O.B.V's. F.O.C.N.P. inform Western Patrol.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1239/16).

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/16 (D.C. 1156/16) At 2330/16 (D.C. 2344/16).

R.N. Air Stations.

Request you report following details of Local Defences. (D. of L.D. 1328/16 to R.N.A. Stations).

Campbeltown.

Your 1328/16. Details as follows.
(R.N.A.S. Campbeltown 2215/16 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

REVENGE.

Arrival REVENGE escorted by KELLY KIPLING JERSEY.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1017/16).

INTREPID.
SEALION.
IMPULSIVE.

1. INTREPID and SEALION are to R.V. for special exercises (position, date), position to be selected by C. in C. Rosyth.

2. On completion INTREPID is to return to Immingham.

3. INTREPID and IMPULSIVE are to convert for minelaying and embark full outfits on 22/1 and 23/1 and are to be sailed for Scapa on (date).
(A.C.N.S.H. 1032/16).

Admiralty 1032/16. Request you will select position for special exercises and report accordingly.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1639/16 to S.6).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler lines occupied. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1532/16).

NAIAD.

To proceed to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 1630/16 to C.S.15).

Operations.

Western Channel Patrol.

1. After landing experimental party KASHMIR and JUPITER are to patrol tonight between longitudes of Start Point and Lizard returning Plymouth at 1030/17.

2. Object is to cover shipping in channel.
(C. in C. W.A. 1313/16 to KASHMIR, JUPITER).

Coastguard Falmouth reports small Coaster apparently on fire bearing E.S.E 20 - 25 miles. Heavy explosion also heard about the same time. Investigate but do not enter Q Z Y 174. Three M A/S B are also investing.
(C. in C. W.A. 1717/16 to KASHMIR, JUPITER).

/Sauterne.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

Sauterne reports red, white, yellow star lights sighted southward of Eddystone at 2045.
(C. in C. W.A. 2131/16 to KASHMIR).

Reference 2045 from H.M. A/P vessel SAUTERNE and your 2103. Merchant ship (corrupt group) 20 miles south of Eddystone has seen nothing. Am proceeding to Eastern end of patrol station.

One flash observed in that direction at 2045. Possibly lightning.
(KASHMIR 2235/16 to C. in C. W.A.).

M.L's to investigate Lights and flashes.

Very light and flashes have been reported to seaward from Beer Head to Prawle Point at about 2045. 6 Motor Launches are to proceed to investigate.
(C. in C. W.A. 2103/16 and 2345/16 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

My 2103 and my 2345 motor launches return to Dartmouth.
(C. in C, W.A. 0147/17 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

P.V.1.

Operation P.V. one will be carried out tonight Thursday between 2200 and 2359.
(C. in C. Nore 1439/16 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

My 1439/16. P.V. one will be carried out in 3 relays from 2200/16 until 0700/17, the third patrol from 0400 to 0700 being carried out by a single aircraft.
(C. in C. Nore 1937/16 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

/E-Boats.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (contd).

E- Boats.

Three Enemy War Motor Boats bearing 050 degrees distance one mile Course unknown in 52° 16'N. 1°58'E.
(WOOLSTON 2040/16).

My 2040 enemy retired to Eastwards.
(WOOLSTON 2049/16).

My 2040. Enemy was driven off before they could develop attack on convoy.
(WOOLSTON 2301/16 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Raider Report.

RRRR Armed Merchant Raider 50 R 58 North 27 R 22 West Unknown Vessel gunned 2000.
(Lyness W/T 2050/16).

Unknown ship gunned position 050° 58'N. 027° 22'W.
(C. in C. W.A. 2205/16 to SEVERN).

Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 2132 G.M.T. from unknown station. RRRR Message cancelled. Origin and form of cancellation suspicious. No call sign used. 2134.

First transmission of unknown vessel's RRRR T.O.O. 2000/16 not received by Lands End Radio.
(C. in C. W.A. 2329/16 to Adty).

Submarines.

L.23.

Intend sail from Scapa at 1500/7 for Dundee, escorted by BUTTERMERE.
(A.C.O.S. 1342/16).

URGE.

Exercising tomorrow in Scapa Flow
(A.C.O.S. 1511/16).

Greenock Area.

Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1527/16)

Positions.

For 24 hours after 0800/17 (FOS 1723/16)

UNBEATEN.

Intend sailing at 1800/17 to R/V with A/S Trawler at 0845/18 in 180° St. Catherines 5 miles.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1800/16 to S.5).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Wilhelmshaven.
Borkum.
Bremerhaven.
Flushing.
Emden.
Rotterdam.

Night 15/16 January. 20 Blenheims, 26 Wellingtons, 16 Whitleys and 14 Hampdens attacked Naval centre at Wilhelmshaven, incendiaries and bombs dropped by the earlier arrivals caused large fires and later arrivals report that they were unable to see the results of their bombs owing to the glare from the raging fires; the area from Bauhafen to about one mile west and then one mile south appeared to be a blazing inferno. Many other large fires to the North and East of Bauhafen. Explosions and fires were also observed on the coaling wharf in the HIPPER Hafen. The fires were seen more than 100 miles away.

One Wellington of 1 group attacked Borkum, and the oil storage Bremerhafen causing fires.

One Blenheim attacked Leer (13 miles South East of Emden) Docks and shipping at Flushing and Jever Aerodrome.

Nine Wellingtons and one Whitley attacked the petrol and oil stores at Emden and Rotterdam, and Schiphol Aerodrome. Some fires and explosions seen.
(Bomber Command Int. Summary No. 649).

Patrols.

Patrol U N S T will not be flown today. All other patrols postponed owing to weather. Further signal will be made if they are able to take off later.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0910/16).

Brest.

A.P./763 16/1. Operations for tonight 16th/17th January, for 53 and 59 Squadrons as detailed in my message AP/761. 15/1.
(H.Q.C.C. 1203/16 to 16 Group Thorney Island).

/Lorient.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1. 1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Lorient.

AP/764 16/1. Available aircraft No. 217 Squadron to attack tonight 16th/17th January, submarines in Naval Dockyard at Lorient.
(H.Q.C.C. 1204/16 to 15 Group, St. Eval).

Thames Estuary. Defence against Minelaying A/C.

Reference C. in C. Nore's 1124/14. Request you examine with C. in C. Nore problem of protecting Thames Estuary from sea mining by aircraft and advise of any new measures recommended for meeting this threat.
(Air Ministry 1305/16 to Fighter Command).

Escorts.

No fighter escort tonight. Kites to be flown.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1654/16 to ULLSWATER, etc).

V.L. A. Balloons.

9. A.L. 024478/40 of 11.1.40 and para 2 of A.L. M.019781/40. Experience has not yet been gained with V.L.A. Balloons but it is considered unlikely that they would stand up to Winter weather in the Eastern Approaches to Portsmouth and servicing would be difficult.

Question is being examined whether yachts carrying out Loop Patrol and A/S Trawlers patrolling Approach Channels could be fitted to fly V.L.A. Balloons.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 2127/16 to AdtY).

804 Squadron.

Your 1648/10.804 squadron can be released from duty with Fighter Command at any time suitable to Admiralty.
(Air Ministry 2210/16 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Attack on Ramsgate.

At midnight unidentified aircraft dropped bombs on Ramsgate.
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0030/16 to V.A. Dover).

Details of civil damage (only)
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1107/16 to Adty).

Convoy F.S. 87.

Enemy bombing odd numbered F.S. Convoy in 51° 53'N. 1° 39'E.
(VIMIERA 0927/16).

My 0927. One Dornier. No hits.
(VIMIERA 0933/16).

Convoy O.B. 274 attacked.
S.S. ONOBA
S.S. MEANDROS hit.

Enemy aircraft. Bombing in 55° 41'N. 12° W.
(N.O.C.S. Block One 1225/16 to Whitehall W/T)
(C. in C. W.A. 1403/16 to VETERAN).

Result of air attack on O B 274 at 1215/16. Dutch Tanker ONOBA abandoned sinking. Crew on board ERICA returning to land injured.

Greek ship MEANDRES abandoned by crew. Still afloat. Four hands transferred to ARBUTUS. Endeavouring to salve.

Rejoing Convoy till 1200/17 when necessary to return owing to faulty evaporators.
(BEVERLEY 1530/16 to C. in C. W.A).

Sailed ENGLISHMAN and RESTIVE to 56° 20'N. 11° 45'W. to assist. MEANDROS (Greek, 4581 Tons) ONOBA (Dutch Tanker, 6256 Tons). (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2104/16).

Dover Attacked.

At 0156 today aircraft dropped one H.E. bomb to the south west of Dover Castle and at 0322 three H.E. bombs were dropped in the harbour and three seaward. Numerous incendiary bombs were dropped in Granville Dock area. All fires but one extinguished by 0340. No casualties or damage to naval property reported.
(V.A. Dover 1306/16 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.1.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Tyne Area. Cancel my 1106/2/12. Diesel driven vessels may now enter ports in the Tyne area under their own power. Diesel driven vessels are still to be notified as such in sailing telegrams.
(D.T.D. 0052/16).

A/C Minelaying. AP/765 16/1. For tonight.
(H.Q.C.C. 1205/16 to 16 Group N.Coates).

Ice. Field ice in position 066° 52'N. 024° 22'W. sound 150 fathoms extending 055° and 230°
(SCOTT 1359/16 to R.A.M.L).

Thames Estuary. One red mine detonated at 1020/16 in 100° E. Nore Sand Buoy 4 cables near inside.
(Capt M/S. Sheerness 1430/16).

DESIREE sunk. (L.L. Trawler) Sunk by ground mine at 1830 in 016° N.W. Shingles Buoy 5 cables. No casualties.
(C. in C. Nore 2245/16) (Capt M/S. Sheerness 0105/17).

Bristol Channel. Ships including those with I.C. Engines may now enter and leave all ports in this area and normal traffic may be resumed.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1447/16).

Minelaying suspected no ships are to leave Bristol Channel Ports until further orders. Westbound ships may leave Swansea. Incoming traffic should anchor to Westward of Breaksea.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2335/16).

Humber open to navigation.
(F.O. Humber 1506/16).

/ROMSEY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

ROMSEY. mined. Milford Haven closed.

(Examination Vessel) Mined in 51 - 41 00'N. 05 - 09 20'W. Disabled and beached in Dale Road. Port Closed until further sweeping carried out.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1540/16).

Expert reports S A gear in only minesweeping trawler so fitted is defective. No ship with I C engines should enter or leave Milford Haven for the present.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1854/16).

Port closed owing to laying of mines by enemy aircraft.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2320/16).

B.S. 50.

Intend to sail from Spurn Point at 1445/18 and take departure from 20C Buoy at 1030/19. Returning to 20C Buoy. Laying will begin at 1230/19.
(S.O. M/L. Immingham 1644/16).

Falmouth.

Red mine detonated at end of short tail by L.L. sweep at 0953 today in 50° 8' 2"N. 5° 1' 30"W.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1715/16).

L.L. Whalers for Liverpool.

Sailed L.L. Whalers STEFFA and SULLA in accordance with Admiralty's 1853/15. 0900/17. E.T.A. 0900/17.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1835/16).

Liverpool.

Mine report to 1800/16. One mine detonated by LL sweep 100° Bar Light Vessel 1½ miles.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2101/16).

Moray Firth Area Sweep.

Commencing at dusk on 21/1 available ships of 5th M.S.F. are to carry out the following searching sweeps.
(1) Kinnairds Head to Duncansby Head Eastward of dividing line AZ 787 and of centre line of Q.Z.S. 160.
(2) Duncansby Head to Kinnairds Head Westward of centre line of Q.Z.S. 160 and of dividing line of A.Z. 787.
Sweeps are to be completed off Kinnairds Head by dark/22 when ships are to return to Aberdeen. (C in C Rosyth 2237/16).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Fast Craft.

There is an indication of a fast craft, air or surface, 16 miles south of Swanage travelling west at high speed at 0105.
(C. in C. W.A. 0121/16 to REVENGE).

Bayonne.

TALISMAN reports Bayonne Approaches were visited but no shipping and very few fishing vessels encountered.
(V.A.S. 1014/16).

Raider reported ready at Oslo.

Report graded C 3 states another Wilhelmsen Ship TAI PING now ready to leave Oslo as raider. Speed possibly 16 knots.

My 2251 7th Dec. Speed of TEMPLAR possibly 16 knots in raider trim.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1209/16 to Northern Patrol).

Brest. Lorient. Keroman.

Warships and Shipping seen at 1130/16
(PIU St. Eval 1720/16).

Flushing. Zeebrugge. Ostend. Blankenberg. Nieuport. Dunkirk.

R/C at 1300/16.
(PRU. Benson 1905/16).

Unknown Ship.

TRIDENT's 0805/14 (Unkown Ship in 50° N. 6°W. at 0648/14).
TRIDENT now reports vessel was not LA MOQUEUSE but resembled KOENIGIN LOUISE class, and disappeared on southerly course. KOENIGIN LOUBE is known to be a minelayer.
(D.D.I.C. 1940/16 to C. in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.1.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoys.	Positions (D.T.D. 1151/16 to C in C.H.F)
Tyne.	Your 1737/15. (Ships to move under own power) Approved. (D.T.D. 0051/16 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).
F.S. 88.	Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0217/16).
H.X. 102. H.X. 103 S.C. 19.	Your 1550/15. Commodores instructed. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 0928/16).
H.X. 98 B.M.) H.X. 100.)	Estimate H X 98 B.M. will be about 18 miles astern of H.X. 100 B.M. at rendezvous. Convoys are to be joined up. (C. in C. W.A. 0951/16 to HUDDERSFIELD TOWN).
F.S.88.	25 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0956/16).
	My 0302. Any ships for Humber which are still with F.S. Convoy 88 should be detached to proceed to Tyne independently. (C. in C. Rosyth 1009/16 to FLEETWOOD, GARTH).
W.N. 69.	000 Degs Dunnet Head 3 at 1145. (A.C.O.S. 1054/16).
O.G. 50.	Sailed DEPTFORD escorting O.G. 50. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1110/16).
W.N. 72.	Sailed H.M.T. Trawlers INDIAN STAR and SOUTHERN GEM E.T.A. Campbeltown 1630/16 INDIAN STAR for W.N. 72. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1120/16).
O.B.M. 275.	1740/17 H.M.T's DERBY COUNTY YORK CITY 5. (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 1130/16).
S.C. 18.	To avoid U Boat in 56° 30'. 12° 00'W. S.C. 18 alter course forthwith to pass through 55° 50'N. 09° 00'W. (C. in C. W.A. 1143/16 to WELLINGTON WESTCOTT, CANDYTUFT, HONEYSUCKLE, CRISPIN).

/Movements.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

Movements to 1200/17.
F.N. 85 due Sheringham Buoy 0800.
F.N. 86 Sails Southend 0930/17
F.S. 87 Due Southend 1600/16
F.S. 88 Due Sheringham Buoy 2200/16.
F.S. 89 Due Flamboro Hd 0330/17
(C. in C. Nore 1200/16).

W.N. 69. Scapa departure 0915 FOWEY and 1100 CURACOA for escort of convoy W.N. 69. (A.C.O.S. 1214/16).

F.S. 87. Convoy F.S. 87 reported in Oaze Deep. 29 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1310/16).

F.N. 85. Sailed 1140/16 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1412/16).

E.N. 57. Passed Buchan Ness at 1415 speed being made good 5 1/2 knots. (STELLA POLARIS 1415/16).

F.S. 89. Sailed 1500. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1508/16).

W.N. 69. Following message repeated to Admiralty C. in C. W.A. Air Min. (for information) E.T.A. of W.N. 69 at Kinnaird Head 1900 speed of advance 6½ knots. (FOXTROT, 1525/16).

W.N. 69.
E.N. 57.
F.S. 89.
F.N. 83. Movements to-night 16/17. 19th M.S Group sweeping ahead of W.N. 69 to Cruden Scuars. expected time of arrival 2000 then returning Peterhead. CURACOA leaves W.N. 69 at dark and return to Scapa. Convoys. W.N. 69 estimated off Kinnaird Head 2300. E.N. 57 Kinnaird Head 1730. F.S. 89 Whitby 2100. F.N. 83 May Island 2200. (C. in C. Rosyth 1530/16).

W.N. 69. My 1530 convoy W.N. 69 amend time off Kinnaird Head to 1900. (C. in C. Rosyth 1714/16).

/O.C.O 50.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

O.G.O. 50.	0730/17/1. Escort H.M.T. ST. ZENO 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1603/16).
O.G. 50.	OG 50 sailed 1522/16 5 ships 7½ knots. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1616/16).
F.N. 85.	7 ships and 8 trawlers from Humber joining at Outer Dowsing all for North of Blyth except two ships. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1716/16).
W.L. 69.(O). W.N. 70.	All ships except EBRO and GIRONDE rendezvoused and proceeded with WN 70. EBRO and GIRONDE returned OBan. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1745/16)
F.N. 83.	Tyne ships arrived. Non arrival FAXFLEET. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1747/16).
H.X. 102.	H.X. 102 meet (C. in C. W.A. to Capt (D) Liverpool for Ships of 7th Escort Group concerned 1809/16).
S.L. 61.	S.L. 61 meet. (C. in C. W.A. 1821/16 to VETERAN, BEVERLEY, WOLVERINE, ERICA, CAMELLIA, ARBUTUS, DELPHINIUM).
F.S. 87.	All ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1828/16).
S.L. 61	LINCOLN, LEAMINGTON, WATCHMAN will be required to sail immediately after refuelling to meet SL 61. (C. in C. W.A. 1945/16).
E.N. 58.	(A) 2230/17. (B) H.M.T. SPURS, PAYNTER, STELLA PEGASI. Additional escort HASTINGS. (C) 23 ships (18 overseas). (E) Code Words:- E.N. 58 M I S S I O N. E.N.L. Portion M O N I T O R. E.N.O. Portion M I X T U R E. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2015/16).
F.N. 83.	Arrived 2125/16. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2205/16).

/W.N. 69.....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

W.N. 69.

Scapa arrival 2345/16 CURACOA from escorting convoy W.N. 69. (A.C.O.S. 2355/16).

Sailings from Iceland.

Routes given to all Merchant ships sailed independently from Iceland should be reported to Admiralty in ample time before sailing. (D.T.D. 1359/16).

C.B. 274.
Kite-Flying.

Report how many ships in C.B. 274 were supplied kites. (C. in C. W.A. 2019/16 to N.C.S.O's Liverpool, Belfast, Clyde, Milford Haven, Oban.).

Pass to Commodore and escorts. The attention of Commodore is called to importance of all Merchant Ships so fitted flying their kites during daylight hours when in danger zone. (C. in C. W.A. 2025/16 to BEVERLEY, DEPTFORD, WELLINGTON, AMBUSCADE, LA MALOUINE).

In view of the attacks being made on shipping by enemy aircraft request that N.C.S.O's at home and overseas may be directed to again impress on Commodores and Masters the necessity for flying kites by day when in the danger zone. It is also recommended that during daylight hours the distance apart may be reduced to 3 cables. (C. in C. W.A. 2043/16 to Admty).

In future the number of ships fitted with kites is to be reported in each convoy sailing telegram. (C. in C. W.A. 2051/16 to N.C.S.O's).

AGNETE MAERSK (Danish).

My 0108/15. AGNETE MAERSK is to be brought into Belfast and the ship seized. (D.T.D. 1928/16 to C. in C. W.A).

AGNETE MAERSK is to be brought into Belfast. (C. in C. W.A. 2231/16 to CLARKIA).

/Routes.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

Routes, Westbound Shipping.

Cancel my 1345/12/11 and amendment 1300/28/12 and substitute to take effect from 1st February. Westbound shipping is to be routed outside a prohibited area enclosed by lines joining the following positions:-
A. 42.50 N. 62.20 W.
B. 44.30 N. 62.00 W.
Y. 43.00 N. 50.00 W.
Z. 40.00 N. 50.00 W.
NCSI. 68 should be amended accordingly.
(D.T.D. 1933/16).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

NEMEA.

(Greek, 5101 Tons) Sinking rapidly in about 52° 33'N. 24° 13'W. (Lands End Radio 0952/16) Investigate if fuel permits.
(C. in C. W.A. 1105/16 to HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER).

BRITISH YEOMAN.
D/G Range.

S.S. BRITISH YEOMAN has been in collision with Solent Buoy. Buoy has disappeared presumed sunk. Deep D/G range out of action pending replacement of buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Southampton 1712/16

TADORNA.

TADORNA (Boom Carrier) badly damaged alongside Princess Pier by Norwegian ANKER SKARASS.
(P.S.T.O. Clyde 1730/16).

EL ALECTO
RAMSAY
BRITISH DOMINION.
PORT TOWNSVILLE.

See A. & W.I.

FOREIGN STATIONS

General-Enemy Raiders

North Atlantic — My 2205/9. No fresh information.

South Atlantic — D/F indications on 16/1. Raider was between St. Helena and Equator.

Indian Ocean — D/F indications that one unit, possibly a supply ship or prize was South East of Durban on 15/1. This vessel may have made false message during December to distract attention while Raider was resting at Kerguelen, where a D/F was obtained on 12/1. Raider probably about to resume operations.

Pacific — No fresh information.

(D.D.I.C., 1756/16 to C. in C's etc.)

Operations Against Vichy French

SAN FRANCISCO Repatriations — 1735/14 from N.A., Madrid. All French Seamen Service personnel and civilians of military age ex French Ships at Gibraltar should be asked individually whether they wish to join de Gaulle. All who refuse should be embarked in SAN FRANCISCO (2) Any Danes unwilling to serve should also be embarked.
(3) Your 1240/15 Ship should have accommodation for at least 1000 repeat 1000 persons, for short voyage. (Head of M., 1206/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SALLY MAERSK, OCTANE, SUROIT, CHANTILLY — Your 1149/13. (1) SALLY MAERSK. Twenty out of twenty two of crew including sixteen Danes two (Lapps?) and two Norwegians Volunteers. Claims approx. £3,652. Crew will then be complete.
(2) OCTANE and SUROIT. No volunteers. Crew required as follows:- (List)
(3) CHANTILLY. No indication of volunteers can be made until strongly pro-Vichy elements are removed in SAN FRANCISCO when further signal will be made. (F.O.C.N. 1250/16 to Admty.)

/Brazilian....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Brazilian Coast 50 mile Limit

Your 0108/22/12 ASTURIAS requests confirmation that interception is not to take place within 50 miles of Brazilian Coast. I have confirmed this but feel difficulty may be whether 50 miles is to be taken literally in all directions or at right angles to coastline. I presume in this case in all directions is correct and has no relation to extension of territorial waters. (C. in C., S.A., 0041/16 to Admty.)

Brazilian Coast 50 mile Limit Cancelled

Your 0041/16 January. Admiralty 0108/22/12 Not to ASTURIAS, cancel 50 mile restriction off the Brazilian Coast. French meat ships may be intercepted anywhere outside territorial waters except west of the line Cape Santa Maria-San Antonio. (A.C.N.S.,(F) 2302/16 to C. in C., S.A.)

North Atlantic

OTUS Azores Patrol

OTUS leaves Gibraltar 1830/17 for Azores Patrol, proceeding on surface (route) Date of leaving patrol. (F.O.C.N.A. 1204/16 to Admty.)

OLYMPUS OTUS

Position of submarines at 0800/17 and movements for the following 24 hours:-
(a) OLYMPUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(b) See F.O.C.N.A., 1204/16.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1208/16 to N.A.Station)

CARMEN ESTELLA

Spanish, re Navicerts. (Conband, Gibraltar 1445/16 to Admty.)

Ponta Delgada Activity. TRIDENT

TRIDENT reports considerable unexpected Merchant Ship arrivals at Ponta Delgada TRIDENT's 0805/14, ship was not LA MOQUEUSE Silhouette resembled KOENIGIN LOUISE Class and disappeared on a southerly course. (V.A.S. 1559/16 to Admty.)

/Whaler Bombed.

MOST SECRET

16.1.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Whaler Bombed — Unknown warship British reported armed Whaler in position 041° 05' N., 012° W., at 1225. (Capt. (S) 8 S.F. 1604/16 to OSIRIS)

Air Report — Daily summary operations. One routine A/S patrol. One surface recco. East. Area covered Spartel to 4° W., Flying curtailed owing to weather. (200 Group, 1730/16)

URSULA Operation L.A. — Gibraltar 16/1 1815 URSULA in accordance with F.O.C.N.A., 1820/15 (S.O.I., Gib., 1820/16 to Admty., etc.)

FORESIGHT — Intend sailing FORESIGHT for Gibraltar via south of Ireland at 1600/17 speed 20 knots. Request routeing instructions from C. in C., W.A., (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 2129/16 to Admty., etc.)

ST. HELIOSE German S/M Escort — Reported ST HELOISE flying no flag believed former ship TANIAERK with cargo of vegetable fabric and cork left for Bordeaux this morning. Two German S/M's will meet ship off South of Spain and escort. Reliability of report unassessed. (F.O.C.N.A., 2209/16 to S. and A, North Atlantic.)

ARK ROYAL Bombs — Reply to Admty. 1801/15. (S.O.Force H., 2255/16)

South Atlantic

Cable Repairs — Consul-General Brazzaville telegram dated 10/1 referring to repairs and alterations to cables in A.E.F's repeated to you in my 0835/16. These proposals are the same as those detailed in my telegram 2113/7/12. Cable ship referred to is presumably Mobile mooring lighter DAYSPRING. Cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER now at Bathurst might be made available. (C. in C., S.A., 0825N/16 to Admty.)

/Following.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.1.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Cable Repairs-Contd.

191. Following is repetition of Consul General Brazzaville's 10/1:- Re Governor's L.8 of 3/1 to Consul-General Brazzaville High Commissioner is most anxious to improve cable communications along coast and understands a British Cable Ship is now at Libreville undertaking refloating of BOUGAINVILLE. He asks if advantage could be taken of this ship to repair old cable between Pointe Noire and Port Gentil and between Port Gentil and Libreville. Cable between Libreville and Cotonou which is also broken could be used to connect Libreville and Lagos and cable from Duala to Cotonou which is sealed at Duala could be used to connect Duala and Lagos. High Commissioner understands that Admiral Cunningham made recommendation to above effect in report dated 10/12 (Ends) (C. in C., S.A., 0835N/16 to Admty.)

German Unit

D/F bearings indicate presence of a German surface unit within 100 miles of position 025° N., 030° W., probability 70% (C. in C., S.A., 1026/16 to PRETORIA CASTLE and S.L.S. 62)

D/F bearings from Simonstown and Ascension on 5600 kc/s at 0130/16 indicate a vessel under German control within 150 miles of 55° S., 35° E., Reliability 60%. (C. in C., S.A., 1651N/16 to Admty.)

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE
ISIS
ENCOUNTER

Departures 0900/16 FURIOUS, NEPTUNE, ISIS, and ENCOUNTER in accordance with C. in C., S.A. 1815N/15 (S.O.I. Freetown 1045N/16)

Italian Air Liner (See 15/1)

Air France Manager has informed me Italian Aeroplane which left here yesterday for Europe sent out S.O.S. at 1220 G.M.T. yesterday Wednesday, no communication after this. (Vice Consul, Natal, Norte. 1050/15 ? 16 to Admty.)

/Southbound.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Cable Repairs-Contd.

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(See 15/1)

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/Southbound.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.1.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Southbound ship crossing 20° N., for Plate. AINDERBY 8½ knots Approximate Noon position 17/1 19° N., 26° W., (Route) (D.T.D., 1123/16 to S.A. Station)

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA

Your 1154/11. Request details of Naval Draft for Freetown in EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA may be signalled. (C. in C., S.A., 1230N/16 to Admty.)

MOUNT LYCABETTUS

Your 0840/15. Admty. information is that MOUNT LYCABETTUS should be at Norfolk, Virginia. (D.D.I.C., 1614/16 to S.N.O. Simonstown)

Your 0840/15. No vessel named LYCABETTUS in Lloyds Register. MOUNT LYCABETTUS 4292 gross tons Greek Flag under charter to Swiss Government sailed from Norfolk (Virginia) for Madeira and Savona 6/11, but put back 9/11. Owners state vessel still at Norfolk. (D.T.D., 1648/16 to S.N.O. Simonstown)

ENTERPRISE Missing Signal

My 1841/11. (Most secret signal 1759/10 not passed to ENTERPRISE) After investigation Cables & Wireless Ltd., have expressed regret that message was mislaid between Freetown and Ascension due to an operating error. (C. in C., S.A 1620/16 to Admty.)

FEARLESS FORESIGHT, etc.

Your 2059/15. It will not be possible for these ships to rejoin W.S. 5 B before arrival Freetown. (F.O.C.N.A., 1732/16 to C. in C., S.A.)

Routeing of Shipping past Cape Verde Is.

Your 1923/15. Period not mentioned. When shipping was routed east of Verde Islands channel at south end of dividing line was narrow and shipping so concentrated by the restricted routes past the Verde Islands that there was little scope for diversion. The general policy when submarines have been in area has been to route as far north and near land as possible for first period of passage and this has been successfull. Since traffic has been diverted to west of Verde Islands outward shipping has been kept to the northward clear of inward traffic. Outward ships are about 2 to 3

/a week.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Routeing of Shipping past Cape Verde Is- Contd.

a week and a small proportion of total traffic. They could be more widely dispersed earlier with advantage and this will be done. Intend to continue to route to north and close to land as circumstances require during submarine activity though not so much value in this now. (C. in C., S.A., 1919/16 to Admty.)

W.S. 6

W.S. 8

Admty. 1642/6. It is intended that CATHAY should provide escort for W.S. 6 (date) For W.S. 8 and subsequent slow convoys, you are requested to detail the A.M.C. escort, which should leave U.K. with the convoy or meet them when the A/S escort leaves, as convenient. (D.O.D. (F) 1852/16 to C. in C., S.A.)

EUMAEUS

C. in C., S.A., 1905/16. See U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy W.S. 5 A

My 1954/30/12. Please advise bunkers lifted and total quantity on board at sailing Freetown. (D. of S.T., 2112/16 to C. in C., S.A.)

"Shrapnel"

Chiefs of Staff have decided that Force "Shrapnel" should return to U.K. as soon -as possible.
Further signal will be made regarding escort arrangements and disposal of stores in SS SHETLAND,
(1st S.L. 2201/16 to C. in C., S.A., C.O.C. W. Africa)

Aircraft at Freetown

S.N.O. Simonstown's 1108/12 (re extended air reconnaissance in view of possible movement of raiders from Atlantic to Indian Ocean) is being passed to Admty. I agree with the requirements. Aircraft with greater radius of action are also required at Freetown as has been pointed out. (C. in C., S.A., 2219/16)

/Sunderlands...

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Sunderlands for A/S Patrol

(A) 3 Sunderlands are leaving U.K. for Freetown via Gibraltar and Bathurst shortly They will operate under the direction of C. in C., South Atlantic and are to be used for A/S work only. You are to report if Sunderlands are not fully occupied in A/S work in which case one or more will be returned to Western Approaches, where they are urgently required.

(b) Bathurst should be used when required as an advance fuelling base, with Freetown as main base, where it is requested you will arrange for a small combined headquarters to be established.

(A.C.N.S(F)2303/16 to C. in C., S.A.)

Mediterranean

Catania Bombed

Special Operational Summary. All times G.M.T. As results of reconnaissance 15/1 9 Wellingtons attacked Catania aerodrome night 15/1 and 16/1. Total weight of bombs dropped 30750 lbs G.P. and 3600 lbs incendiaries. (Details of damage) Exchange of compliments occurred in that about 12 enemy aircraft operated against Malta from Catania during period of our first attack. All Wellingtons returned undamaged. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 0745/16)

Operation "Monsoon"

22 Convoy 1 Blenheim 6 Monsoon Hurricanes arrived 15/1. Please inform Admty. FURIOUS. (H.Q., R.A.F, M.E., 1019/16 to Air Ministry)

BULLFINCH

A.M. 1356/8/12/40. Departure of Cable Ship BULLFINCH has been delayed. She is unlikely to arrive in the Mediterranean before end of March. (D.A/S.W., 1110/16 to C. in C., Med.)

/Air Report....

MOST SECRET

16.1.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Air Report

Operational Summary No 220 up to 1200 hours 16/1.

Derna.

1. Egypt. Day 14/1. Hurricanes machine gunned Derna aerodrome and are reported to have destroyed 5 and damaged further Italian aircraft there confirmation of this result is awaited.

Benghazi

Benina

Night 14/15. 5 Wellingtons dropped 1400 lbs. of bombs on Benghazi. On return journey 1 Wellington machine gunned Benina aerodrome from 250 feet destroying 2 aircraft on ground and damaging others, all aircraft returned safely. A 6th Wellington crashed at Fuka on outward journey and was destroyed by fire but the crew were uninjured.

Day 15/1, no bombing operations. Blenheim reconnaissance reported 4 ships of 6000 tons and 10 smaller ships in Benghazi harbour but no shipping at sea between Ageila and Tobruk.

Tobruk

(H.Q.,R.A.F.,M.E., 1221/16)

BARHAM
EAGLE

BARHAM, EAGLE+ and attendant destroyers left Suda Bay 1100 today via searched Kithera Channel passing through 035° 00' 022° 30' then 135° for 50 miles thence direct to Alexandria. (Capt. S. I. 1423/16 to TETRARCH)

Malta,
Air Report

I. 37 16/1. Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 16/1 all times G.M.T. reccos Catania to examine damage by Wellingtons Operations reported in my I 36 16/1. Unaccomplished owing to engine trouble. 0550 to 0950 phot recco Taranto Raids night 15th/16th Jan 2 raids between 1830 to 2230. Bombs dropped in sea and some on land without damage or casualties.

/1255.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. (contd).

1255 to 1415 several formations which concentrated in to 2 waves of dive bombing attacks carried out by approx. 70 aircraft attacked Grant Harbour dive bombing to very low height attack very determined and intense. First wave consisted of 88's escorted by C.R. 42's second wave J.U. 87's. Target evidently ILLUSTRIOUS 1 hit and ESSEX 1 hit PERTH near miss. 3 Fulmars and 4 Hurricanes up. Present reports indicate 5 certain 3 damaged by fighters and 5 certain and 1 possible by A.A. this does not include claims which may be made by Bofors at dockyard reports not yet available will be reported later. No damage to R.A.F. property or personnel. No military damage or casualties. Naval casualties. Heavy civilian damage. 1505 to 1530 small formation of enemy aircraft passed over Island. 5 Hurricanes and 3 Fulmars up bomb reported dropped near R.D.F. station rendering it temporarily unserviceable. Damage already repaired. (H.Q. Malta 1800/16).

Movements. Summary.

Movements Summary No. 183. Eastern Mediterranean. Submarines TETRARCH and PARTHIAN left Piraeus p.m. 15. and 16/1 respectively due Alexandria 19 and20/1 passing through anti Kithera Channel and position 035° 00'N. 023° 00'E. RORQUAL left Alexandria 1400/14 due Malta dawn 19/1 passing through position 032°50' N. 026 43'E. 033 27'N. 022 10' E. 035° 18'N. 015° 19'E. UNIQUE left Malta 16/1 for Tripoli or Cape Misurata Patrol. REGENT to leave Eastern limits Cape Misurata Patrol 1800/17 and arrive Alexandria .

/Cruisers.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Movements. Summary. (Contd).

Curisers, Destroyers. YORK with 4 destroyers covering A.N. 12 in Kaso Straits. CALCUTTA with 5 Greek Destroyers escorting A.N. 12 in position 034° 10'N. 028° 15'E. at 1800/16 speed 7 knots A.S. 11 and 2 Corvettes in position 033°16'N. 027° 58'E. at 1800 16th speed 7 knots for Port Said passing through position 032° 20'N. 030° 55'E. Force X due Alexandria 2359/17 from Suda Bay. ORION BONAVENTURE VENDETTA arrive Alexandria 1100/15. 2 Corvettes with 2 Merchant Ships leave Port Said p.m./16 for Alexandria. PERTH to leave Malta dusk 17th for Suda Bay. GREYHOUND and 2 Destroyers to leave Alexandria a.m./17 for Piraeus.
T.O.O. 1757/16.
(C. in C. Med 1812/16 to Med Fleet).

Air Raids Malta.

Very heavy raids on Dockyard. ESSEX badly damaged. ILLUSTRIOUS hit aft damage not serious. Fires now out. PERTH near missed. Consider it essential to sail PERTH as soon as possible 24 knots.
(V.A. Malta 1821/16 to C. in C. Med).

USK.

Indicate position course and speed UNIQUE left Malta 1715 A/16 through 033° 35' 013° 50' to South Westwards.
(S.O. Subs Malta Force 1939/16 to USK).

RORQUAL. UPRIGHT.

Capt S. (I)'s 0919/14 Progeed thrgh 035° 18' 014° 13' and 035° 32'014° 14' to arrive off Grand Harbour 0645 A/19 UPRIGHT routed from 033° 35' 013° 50' direct to 035° 38' 014° 07' to arrive 0700 A same day.
(S.O. Subs, Malta 1955/16 to RORQUAL).

/PERTH.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

PERTH.

Am sailing PERTH 2200 Z-1 direct to Alexandria and not Suda Bay as Y turret is out of action, starboard inner propeller shaft may be distorted and some oil fuel tanks leaking. All defects due to very near miss in air raid.
(V.A. Malta, 2053/16 to C. in C. Med).

Following is a repetition of my 2215/16. PERTH sailed from Malta at 2200/16 - One for Alexandria routed through position 034° 30' 015° 00' and 034° 35' 023° 00'.
(V.A. Malta 2223/16 to RORQUAL).

East Indies.

Convoy B.S. 12½.

Arrival 15/1 1800Z SYDNEY with EMPRESS OF CANADA, 2000Z CALEDON HINDUSTAN FLAMINGO with Aden portion of B.S. 12½. 16/1 0200Z KIMBERLEY.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0300/16 to Admty etc).

S.W.4B.

Departure 16/1 0500Z SYDNEY and KIMBERLEYwith EMPRESS OF CANADA to rejoin S.W.4B.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 0501Z/16).

HECTOR.

HECTOR is to proceed now to patrol between 003° N. 080° E. and 007° N. 085° E. and is to leave patrol so as to arrive Colombo 0300Z/19.
(C. in C. E.I. 0514Z/16 to HECTOR).

TAUBATE.

Overdue shipping. Brazilian Ship TAUBATE Due Aden 12/1 not arrived. Admty. 1042/11/12 refers.
(C. in C. E.I. 0620Z/16).

COCKCHAFER.

Your 0950/15. Take no official action until further orders.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0700Z/16 to N.O.I.C Basra).

/INTREPIDO.....

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

INTREPIDO. fuel.

Durban Agent states s.s. INTREPIDO put into Mombasa for fuel. Master asks for Customs to be authorised to supply. As practically whole of cargo is consignment to Anglo Iranian there appears to be no objection from contraband point of view.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0855B/16 to C. in C. E.I.).

Japanese Ships carrying mails. Action to be taken.

(1) Suspicion exists that Japanese ships proceeding to Iranian ports carry mail which might give evidence of contraband activity. Khor Kuwai patrol (a) to intercept and board next ship. (b) make it clear to Master that interception is a measure of contraband control. (c) Make a limited search for contraband to give colour to above assertion (d) Obtain copy of manifest if possible and send to M.E.W. by quickest route. (e) Explain to Master that as mails cannot be properly examined at sea (f) Remove all mails and allow ship to proceed (g) Send mails to Karachi by next (?favourable) opportunity.
(C. in C. E.I. 1110/16 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf).

Air Report.

Operational Summary No. 220 up to 1200 hours 16/1.

4. Kenya. 14/1 and 15/1 S.A.A.F. made 1 patrol Mombasa. R.C. etc.

Search for U.B.

5. Palestine 15/11 Lysander searched unsuccessfully for a submarine reported off coast south of Jaffa.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1225/16).

Convoy B.N. 12½.

Arrived Suez p.m. /15 (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1237/16).

Troop movements U.S.9. escort.

C. in C. E.I. 1452Z/16. See Operations Volume.

RANCHI.

Orders (C. in C. E.I. 1456Z/16).

/Aircraft.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (contd).

Aircraft Range.

Re range of aircraft operated by Japanese and probable scale of attack, Calcutta, etc.
(AirMinistry to A.H.Q, India 1500/16).

Force T.

Re. 0229/31/12 and Adty 1749/12.
(i) Request Force T may be sailed as soon as possible after completion of refitting work to patrol as arranged by Senior Officer in area bounded by positions A 025° S. 040° E. B. 030° S. 035 E. C. 030° S. 045° E.
(ii) Intend Force T. shall refuel Durban the day after W.S. 5A. has sailed. Request (?date of sailing from) Simonstown may be adjusted so as to arrive at Durban with not less than 25% fuel remaining and that I may be informed.
(C. in C. E.I. 1450Z/16 to C. in C. S.A.).

Air Operations.

0435 to 0635. 900 lbs bombs dropped in low level attack on lorry near Berbera and gun emplacement Zeilah scoring near misses on former and direct hit on latter.
(Air H.Q. Aden 2002/16).

China.

Indo-China Trade.

Pass to F.O. Jouan confirms decision of Armistice Commission as reported in Haiphong's Telegram 16 to F.O. British Ships may be used until these Norwegian ships are available and that 3 Norwegian ships may carry on an unlimited number of voyages. Norwegian ships, were selected by name by Armistice commission. Decision is not unexpected and in view of commercial and political advantages of arriving at Agreement intend to negotiate on this basis. It is possible some further concession may be obtainable but full reciprocity seems out of the question. Governor Straits Settlements concurs.
(C. in C. China 0917Z/16 to Admty).

/My.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (contd).

My 0917/16. Following are approximate latitudes and longtitudes of places mentioned.
(C. in C. China 1030Z/16).

Following from Foreign Office. My 1946/14 Part I para. 2c last three words. For "to those territories" substitute "to British or Allied Territories".
(D.T.D.1228/16 to C. in C. China, Govr. Straits settlements.).

Aerodromes.

Air Ministry 1040/10 (C.O.S. No. 39 Comments on Far East Defence conference Proposals for aerodromes) Paragraph 6 last sentence. Detailed arrangements as in Adty 1150/7.
(D.N.A.D. 1801/16 to C. in C. China).

America & West Indies.

Use of W/T by Shipping.

Your 0908/24. Norwegian Shipping Mission have re-emphasised instructions to their New York Office that even in coastwise trade charterers should not give Norwegian vessels instructions by W/T and that ships must not reply. Any further such instances should be reported.
(D.T.D. 0050/16 to S.O.I. Kingston, Jamaica.).

EL-ALETO.
RAMSAY.
BRITISH DOMINION.

British El-ALETO returned from B.H.X. 101 for engine repairs. British RAMSAY and British Ship BRITISH DOMINION returned from B.H.X. 102 both with heavy weather damage.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 0934/16 to Admty).

PORT TOWNSVILLE.

My 1010/14. No apparent damage, ship refloated by own power. Sailed Clyde due 29/1. In view of importance and urgency of cargo no formal inquiry held at Marine Board.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston 1100/16 to Admty).

/Rumour.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd)

Rumour of German attack on Tunisia.

From Navy Department. Germany and Italy are intending to terminate armistice with France and attack Tunisia and France. Plan includes as a first stage operations by German Air Forces from Sicily in conjunction with Italian Fleet to attack Bizerta and other ports in Tunisia with object of forming bridge heads for follow-on troops. Operations to commence between 20/1 and 23/1. (N.A. Washington 1105/16).

N.I.D. Comment.

There have been several reports of German troops and mechanised units in Sicily.

2. At present the number of German aircraft does not indicate that an attack on Tunisia is imminent.

3. Unlikely Germans will entrust the protection of their troops to the Italian Air Force.

4. The indications are therefore against an attack as early as 20-23rd January but the advantages to the Axis of the occupation of Tunisia may well invite such action before long.

5. This question will be considered by the J.I.C.

DUCHESS OF YORK.
ORONTES.

My 1242/13, request early reply as considerable doubt expressed by Ministry of Shipping Representatives regarding accommodation DUCHESS OF YORK and ORONTES. Could a forth ship be made available?
(N.S.H.Q. 1201/16 to Admty).

ASSINIBOINE.
RESTIGOUCHE.
COLUMBIA.
ST. FRANCIS.
NEWMARKET.

Sailed Halifax 15/1 via St. John's Nfld. where RICHMOND will join company for U.K.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1702/16).

COMORIN.
VOLTAIRE.

F.O.C.N.P. 1230/13 and Admty 1012/11. Would it be possible to release COMORIN or VOLTAIRE to C in C S.A. before arrival of A.M.C's from Northern Patrol as CATHAY whom C in C S.A. was expecting at Freetown (date) is now required to escort a troop convoy from U.K. to Capetown.
(D.O.D.(F) 1855/16 to F.O.C. 3 B.S).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

U.S.9.

Your 1242/8 U.S. 9 will sail as suggested in para. (ii) and (iii) Australian and New Zealand requirements for U.S. 10.
(A.C.N.B. 1137Z/16 to D. of S.T).

NARVIK. (raider).

My 2000Z/29/12. Further amendments and additional description of NARVIK.
(A.C.N.B. 1200Z/16 1230/16).

ACHILLES. Honolulu.

Your 0259Z/10. U.S.N. Authorities have no objection to visit of ACHILLES to Honolulu but they draw attention to U.S. Neutrality regulations under which belligerent warships may not stay more than 24 hours in U.S. waters except in case of stress of weather or delay in receiving supplies or repairs.
(Hd. of M. 1714/16 to N.Z.N.B).

Visit Abandoned.

Your 1714/16. In view of uncertainty in obtaining U.S.A. Government permissio ACHILLES parted company with EMPRESS OF RUSSIA at 1700/14 and is returning to Suva.
(N.Z.N.B. 2343Z/16 to Admty).

SAGAMI MARU believed raider supplies.

Following received from Naval and Army Intelligence Honolulu (Begins) SAGAMI MARU through Honolulu about 21/12/40 carried shipment of 6-inch shells antiaircraft ammunition, machine gun ammunition, detonators and primers all consigned Bolivia believed for transfer to Raider between Hawaii and U.S.A. or U.S.A. and South America (Ends). British Consul Honolulu reported this ship as sailing for Los Angeles.
(S.O.I. Wellington 2128Z/16 to Admty etc)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

Attitude of Uruguay Government and decision to notify violation of 300 mile zone under Article 2 of Panama Agreement. (Millington-Drake, Montevideo, 1042/16 and 1126/16 to Foreign Office).
See Also Vichy French.

Apology to Uruguay.

Acting under instructions from S. of S. for Foreign Affairs, H.M. Minster at Montevideo has expressed to Uruguayan Government unreserved apologies of H.M. Govt. for MENDOZA incident.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 1247Z/16 to Admty).

Cancellation of 50 mile restriction off the Brazilian Coast for interceptions. (See operations Against Vichy French).

MENDOZA.

At. 1250Z/16 MENDOZA passed Rio Grande Do Sul breakwater two miles keeping close inshore speed of advance 13.5 knots. My 2010Z/15 should read to R.A.S.A.D. repeated C. in C.S.A. (ASTURIAS, 1320Z/16 to R.A.S.A.D).

Rio Grande De Sul reports vessel believed to be MENDOZA proceeding northward at 0955 local time followed by another vessel.
N.C.S.O. (I) Freetown informed.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 1438/16 to Admty).

FORT DE FRANCE.

My 1512/14 FORT DE FRANCE sailed St. Thomas same day, Casablanca 25/1.
(S.O.I. Kingston, 1211/16 to C. in C. A.W.I.).

My 1211/16 S.O.(I) Gibraltar informed.
(S.O.I. Kingston 1612/16 to C. in C. A.W.I.).

Following from Navy Department from Martinique. FORT DE FRANCE sailed for Marseilles 14/1 via Virgin Islands carrying Bananas.
(N.A. Washington, 1519/16 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

KERSTEN MILES. 4971 tons, which arrived Teneriffe 31/12/40 from neighbouring island of Palma, where she had been since 28/10/39 is reported from Teneriffe to be negotiating for provisions more than her own needs. Probable any excess provisions are for Germany or occupied France. (D.S. 499).

HAVELLAND. At Yokohama. Mitsubishi, Tokyo, reported to be negotiating for purchase of this ship. (D.S. 499).

FORTUNA. Left Gijou 12/1 reported destination Bordeaux. Name painted out. (A.N.A. Madrid T.H.I, 1430/16).

BARENFELS. 7569 S.T. Reported to be in Akers Dock, Oslo, having bomb damage repaired. (Ship was originally believed to have been sunk in Bergen Harbour during an air raid previous to 12/6/1940) (D.S. 500).

ITHAKA.
ARKADIA. Arrived from Turkey ITHAKA with 3000 tons of iron ore and ARKADIA in ballast in order to coal. (VARNA 1600/16).

TINOS. TINOS is repainting probably hull grey and funnel black. Impression is that these ships masquerade as Spanish Castille Class ships and they carry (? some)Spanish crew. (Capt (S) 8 1616/16 to URSULA).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TORRE. 400 tons C. 3 report says left Bar, Yugoslavia on 31/12 and was sunk by gunfire by a S/M. (D.S. 500).

SAN PAOLO. On 1/1 2 Italian steamers, one of which was SAN PAOLO, stated to be 800 tons, left Bar and both were sunk. (D.S. 500) Comment in D.S.- These may have been the ships recently reported attacked by Greek S/M's.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

OROPESA.

British 14118 tons (Capetown for Liverpool independently routed on Government chester) (D.S. 499). (D.O.R. 16/1). Following has been read from OROPESA. 56° 30'North 12° West slowly sinking, OROPESA torpedoed.
(Portishead Radio, 0230/16).

Submarine Report, 56° 30'North 12°West, Still floating OROPESA torpedoed.
(Port Patrick, 0308/16).

Following has been read: 56° 30'N. 11° 46'W. OROPESA torpedoed.
(Portishead Radio, 0315/16).

Detach one ship to assistance of OROPESA torpedoed in position 056° 30'N. 012° 00'W. at 0315.
(C, in C. W.A. 0341/16 to VETERAN).

Sailed TENACITY SUPERMAN and SCHELDE to assistance of S.S. OROPESA.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0530/16).

My 0530/16 for SCHELDE read THAMES.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0816/16).

OROPESA not met, search continued. Position 056° 33'N. 011° 42'W by stars. Cloud base 5 thousand feet.
(WOLVERINE, 1331/16 to C. in C. W.A).

My 1529/13/1 (OROPESA search by 5th M.S.F) Search completed. Northing found.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1503/16 to Admty).

Have searched the area about 056° 30'N. 012 00'W. particularly to leeward without result. Am now standing to Eastward in hope that OROPESA still proceeding. 72% fuel remaining. 55° 51'N. 11° 45'W. (weather).
(WOLVERINE, 2206/16 to C. in C. W.A.).

/NEMEA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.1.1941. Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked. (contd).

NEMEA. (unconfirmed report)	Greek, 5101 tons, torpedoed at 0952/16 approx 520 miles W. of River Shannon. Bound from Barry for Greece via Cape in Convoy O.B. 272 (D.S. 499) No evidence that NEMEA was attacked by a submarine. (D.S. 500).
Unknown Ship. EMPIRE SCOUT	Gunned probably by U/B 50.58 N., 27.22 W. 267° Fastnet 680' (B.2). (D.S. 500~~7~~, 504).
ZEALANDIC.	British 10578 tons 58.28 N. 20.43 W. ZEALANDIC torpedoed. (VALENTIA RADIO 2248/16).
	SSSS 58.28 N. 20.43 W. ZEALANDIC torpedoed. (Lyness W/T, 2249/16).
	Following had been made to ZEALANDIC previous to torpedoing:- To G.B.M.S. Area 1. From Admiralty. For ZEALANDIC only. Alter course as soon as posible after position C. to new D 360° 60 miles from old D. (D.T.D. 1347/16).
EUMAEUS.	Your 1304/15/1 EUMAEUS was coming into Freetown to coal. This was not known at Freetown. Ship had 2230 tons on leaving and 1033 tons on 12/1 with 13 days steaming to reach Capetown. Consumption 87 tons per day. Following ships routed to Cape during January have put into Freetown for bunkers. (C. in C. S.A. 1905/16).

S/M's Reported.

0145.	59°-60°N., About 25°W. Very indefinite. (D.S. 499).
0236.	48°-49°N., 27°-29°W. say 900'W. of Ushant, indefinite (D.S. 499).
1208.	56°-57°N. West of 20°W. indefinite position (D.S. 500).

/2044.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported.
(contd).

2044. 53°N. 22°-23°W., say 440'W. of Slyne Head, indefinite position. 9D.S. 500).

1208. D/F of U/Boat 473 - 3 - 56° 30'N. 24° 00'W. (D.D.I.C. 1208/16).

0952. Admiralty Message AF position 52° 33'N. 24° 13'W. at 0852/16/1/41 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1304/16).

1730. Following has been read Addressed Plymouth. Immediate. Suspected submarine sighted 056° 30'N. 032° 45'W. 1630 G.M.T./16.
(CLAN MACPHERSON 1722/16).

1730. Unknown ship reports suspected submarine sighted 056° 30'N. 032° 45'W. at 1630 G.M.T./16.
(C. in C. W.A. 2203/16 to SEVERN).

2044. From Admiralty. Immediate. 442 - 3 - S/M Italian 53.00 N., 22.30 W. 5025. 2044/16.
(D.D.I.C. 2135/16)

Estimated U-boat dispositions. In N.W. Approaches at least one U/B is operating between Rockall and Ireland and Western Isles, others are far out.

German.
1 in 56° 30' N. 12°W. at 0316/16.
1 in 52° 33' N. 24°13'W. at 0952/16.
1 about 48° N. 28°W. at 0236/16.
1 about 48° N. 18°W. bound for Lorient.
1 about 56° 30' N. 24°W. at 1208/16.
1 between 57° N. and 59°N. near 20°W.
1 near 60°N. 25°W.
1 about 49°N. 12°W. outward bound.
1 to southward of Cape Verde Islands.
1 to southwestward of Rosemary Bank.

Italian.
1 in Freetown Area.
4 in or on passage to or from N.W. Approaches.
(D.D.I.C. 1416/16).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.1.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Convoy H.X. 103

ROYAL SOVEREIGN is escorting homeward bound convoy H.X. 103.

Western Channel Patrol

KASHMIR and JUPITER last night patrolled in the Western Channel, to cover shipping.

Operation P.V. One

This operation was ordered for last night.

U-Boat Attacks

SS ALMEDA STAR (14935 tons) was torpedoed this morning in the N.W. Approaches. She carried 177 F.A.A. personnel for Trinidad.

British Air Activity

Wilhelmshaven was heavily attacked last night. Attacks were also made on Emden Rotterdam, Boulogne, Calais and the seaplane base at de Mok.

Coastal Command aircraft bombed a convoy off Ijmuiden this afternoon and hit two ships. A convoy was attacked off Hook of Holland; one ship was hit, an explosion on board resulting. A little later, a minelayer was bombed off the Hook and was seen to be sinking.

The HIPPER Class cruiser at Brest was attacked again this evening, but it is not reported that she was hit.

Owing to the weather, patrols over the North Sea were curtailed today, and no patrols were flown in the Channel.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.1.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Weymouth and Portland were attacked last night and some damage was done to the shore establishment H.M.S. ATTACK.

ARIGUANI
NORMAN STAR
OPAWA
Damaged

Ocean boarding vessel ARIGUANI, SS NORMAN STAR and SS OPAWA were damaged during an attack on Avonmouth last night.

SS NORTH BROOK, a straggler from S.C. 18 was attacked three times today about 100 miles W.N.W. of Blacksod Bay; no damage is reported. Tescue tug NORMAN was machine gunned and slightly damaged near Cross Sand Light Float. M.L. 110 engaged the plane.

Shipwash Light Vessel was bombed and machine gunned today, but only very minor damage was caused.

Mining

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft is suspected off the coast of Cornwall, Milford Haven and Pembroke.

Mining of Liverpool

13 mines were detonated in the Liverpool area in the 24 hours ending 1800 today. VISCOUNT detonated two in the entrance to Queen's Channel but no damage has been reported. Corvette RHODODENDRON was mined off Liverpool this morning and was towed into port. M/S Trawler SATA was damaged by a near mine explosion in Liverpool Bay but returned to harbour under her own power.

RHODODENDRON

SATA
Damaged

ATHELDUKE
Mined

The tanker ATHELDUKE (8966 tons) was damaged by a mine in the Bristol Channel this morning and was beached, Normal traffic was resumed in the Bristol Channel ports this morning.

Milford Haven was opened this afternoon until dark. Two mines were detonated.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.1.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Cooperation of Navy with 13th Corps.

During the period 7 to 17 Jan. the Navy carried out the following work in support of the operations of the 13th Corps in the Western Desert. 35,000 prisoners (bringing the total to 54,000) and many tanks were ferried to Alexandria. 500 tons of stores were landed daily at Sollum and the supply of petrol for Hurricanes was maintained. R.E.stores and ammunition were unloaded at Bardia, the harbour has been cleared, A/T baffle laid, and moorings established.

The forces working along the coast, patrolling and covering operations have consisted of TERROR and gunboats, 19th Divn. Australian destroyers, PROTECTOR (netlaying), T.S.M.S. ships and M.A/S B's

The enemy have taken no naval action nor made T.B.attacks, but bombing has been constant, especially at night. Our A.A. fire which was at first ineffective is improving. Damage caused so far has been slight, but speed of unloading has been affected. Shortage of tugs and lighters, at one time serious, is now being remedied by shipping them from Palestine.

Air Attack on Tobruk

R.A.F. bombed Tobruk last night, causing violent explosions near military H.Q., petrol dumps and underground ammunition stores.

Ships Torpedoed by PARTHIAN

PARTHIAN reports torpedoing a 7000 ton laden supply ship 7 miles south of Cape Spartivento. It is believed the ship sank. The date of attack is not yet known.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.1.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Raider Situation

C. in C., E.I., today sent suggestions for dealing with the raider situation, including drastic steps to be taken to stop leakage of information, to continue policy of dispersal but routeing shipping so that any focal areas are brought as near as possible to our bases, the use of false messages, and technical suggestions connected with W/T installations.

MOST SECRET.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SPIREA
NIGELLA.

When ready for sea SPIREA and NIGELLA should be sailed for Tobermory to work up, on completion of which they should join Western Approaches Escort Force. (D.O.D.H. 1206/17.)

A/C. attacks on S/M's Proposals.

It has been represented to me that the chances of an aircraft making a successful attack on an enemy submarine would be increased if pilots were allowed to attack irrespective of any recognition signals displayed by the submarine.

2. Consider such action is justifiable in areas where it is known that no Allied submarine is operating.

3. Propose that F.O.S. should promulgate daily to H.C.C.C. R.A.N.A.S. and A.C.O.S. large areas in which it is known that no British submarine is operating. In these areas, which remain in force for 24 hours, any submarine may be attacked at sight without regard to recognition signals.

4. If approved F.O.S. will inform the Authorities concerned.(F.O.S.1744/17 to Adty.)

Use of Capital Ships against Invasion. Meeting to discuss.

Consequent on recent meeting of Commanders-in-Chief with the Prime Minister, a meeting will be held at Admiralty on 24/1, which will be the first of a series to discuss the employment of capital ships in the North Sea in case of an invasion.
2. It is requested that a Representative of each of the addressees may attend. (1st. S.L. 1745/17.)

MOST SECRET.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

R.N.A.S. Stations Ground Defences. — Adty. 1328/16. (Crail 1117/17.)(Lee 1140/17.) (Arbroath 1214/17.) (Twatt 1358/17.) Bonibristle 1437/17.) St. Merryn 1529/17.) (Yeovilton 1627/17.) (Worthy Down 1705/17.)

DELUGE. — At 1130/17. (P.C.1202/17.)

Carrera Sound) Boom Defences) — Your 1231/14. Following modifications approved. (A.C.N.S. M. 2128/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements.

JUPITER. — Sailed from Plymouth 1030/16. (C. in C. W.A. 0149/17.)

KASHMIR. — Arrived Plymouth 1615/16. Sailed 1738/16. (C. in C. W.A. 0149/17.)

CLARKIA
AGNETE MAERSK. — Your 1651/15 and 2231/16. Not met. Patrolled about position from 2315/16. (CLARKIA 0215/17 to C. in C. W.A.) Continue Patrol (C. in C. W.A. 0439/17 to CLARKIA)Your 0909/17. Not met. E.T.A. Londonderry 1400/16 (CLARKIA 1220/17 to C. in C. W.A.) My 0108/15 and 2231/16. AGNETE MAERSK is reported as having sailed. May have gone southabout.If met, she should be directed to Belfast. (D.T.D. 2035/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

ULSTER MONARCH. — Sailed for Inverary. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1008/17.) Arrived. (V.A.C.T.C.1410/17 to Adty.)

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1554/17.)

MOOLTAN. — Admiralty 1233/16. Considered MOOLTAN should make the passage between B 3 and No.4 sea reach buoys near high water, and speed in Barrow Deep should not exceed 12 knots. She should arrive Shipwash lightvessel at daylight. Propose WHITSHED now working up at Scapa should form escort. Favourable tides occur on 24/1 and following 5 days (C. in C. Nore 1758/17 to C. in C. Rosyth

/CIRCASSIA.....

MOST SECRET.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

CIRCASSIA. My 1022/13. In view of U Boat in about 60° N. 025° W. proceed through 61° N. 27° W.(F.O.C.N.P. 1918/17 to CIRCASSIA.)

Operations.

Enemy Unit off Lands End. U-Boat or Surface Ship was 50 miles West of Lands End by unreliable D/F fix at 2138/16. Investigate. (C. in C. W.A. 0131/17 to KASHMIR.) If nothing sighted by 0900 return to harbour. (C. in C. W.A. 0145/17 to KASHMIR.) Hudson A/C will probably be co-operating with you at daylight. (C. in C.W.A.0727/27 to KASHMIR.)

A/S Sweep by D. 6. On parting company carry out A/S search along longitude 025° West, On reaching latitude 053° North proceed Eastwards to pass North of Rockall and then return to Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 0910/17 to Capt. D.6.)

P.V.1. Will be carried out from 2000 to 2359 tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1105/17.)

MINNIE DE LARRINAGA. Your 1805/15. Concur. (C. in C. Nore 1109/17 to F.O.I.C. London.)

KELLY.
KIPLING.
JERSEY. Request you sail today in time to sweep as far as vicinity Scilly Isles. Ships to arrive Plymouth 1030/18. (C. in C. W.A. 1219/17 and 1803/17 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) Ships sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1825/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

/A/S sweep.....

MOST SECRET.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

A/S sweep North of Rockall.

Request you will sail BEAGLE and BRILLIANT for Scapa when ready.

(11) BEAGLE and BRILLIANT are to ca out an A/S sweep on passage passing through position 058° 16' North 013 40' West where ALMEDA STAR was torp at 0649/17. (A.C.W.A. 1949/17 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

Gunfire off Dodman Point.

Reported at 2101. Two M.G.B's sail from Fowey to investigate.(C. in C. 2151/17 to KELLY.)M.G.B's ordered t return to Fowey. Nothing to report (C. in C. W.A. 2307/17 to KELLY.)

Submarines.

FORESIGHT.

Your 2129/16. Route to Gibraltar. (C. in C. W.A. 0017/17 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

S/M Recognition Signal sighted.

Your 1111/15. State what type of Recognition Signal was seen.(D.S.D. 1225/17 to MINISTRY.)

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1352/

SEALION.

Admty. Letter M/OD 2008/41 of 16/1. Until operation has taken place, st order not to advertise its advent, intend SEALION be directed not to attack coastal traffic but that en submarines, enemy cruisers and (?S, depot ships), and large escorted merchant ships may be attacked. On completion of operation I inten SEALION should spend remainder of patrol off [redacted].
(F.O.S. 1656/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

Positions.

For 24 hours after 0800/16. (F.O.S 1732/17.)

MOST SECRET.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Convoy attacked off Helder. — At 0310/17 A/C attacked a Convoy of 6 M/V's and 2 Escort Vessels steering South at 10 knots. Near miss on one M/V. (Chatham A.C.H.Q.1058/17.)

Patrols. — Patrol FAIR cancelled today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1112/17.)

Fair Island. — N.O.I.C. Lerwick reports Fighters from Sumburgh have shot down a Heinkel 111 or a Dornier 215 on Fair Island. (A.C.O.S. 1150/17.)

Brest. — AP/767/17/1. 53 and 59 Sqdns., attack tonight Cruiser in Brest. (H.Q.C.C.1307/17.

Lorient. — AP/766/17/1. 217 Sqdn. attacks tonight S/M's in Dockyard at Lorient.(H.Q.C.C. 1305/17.

Liverpool. A/A. Defences. — A.L. M0824478/40. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2302/16 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Portland. — Weymouth and Portland attacked by several A/C. between 2315/16 and 0130/17. 5 H.E. Bombs at Weymouth, 4 on land and 2 in sea at Portland. Extensive structural damage at ATTACK. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0829/17.) (O.C.W. Portland 1630/17 to C.E. in C.)

NORTH BROOK. — (British, 2323 Tons) Bombed and machine-gunned in 54° 50' N. 12° 43' W. (Valentia Radio 0926/17.) A/C seems to have gone away (NORTHBROOK 0926/17 to Adty.) Bombed (Port Patrick Radio 1025/17.) Bombed in 54° 58' N. 12° 26' W. (Portishead Radio 1225/17.)

/Shipwash.....

MOST SECRET.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Shipwash Light Vessel.	Attacked by twin-engined unidentified A/C without nationality marks but with Letter B. Approached from N.W. at 1118 dropped 6 bombs 30 yards off quarter and machine-gunned crew. No casualties. Only damage windows broken.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1343/17 to C. in C. Nore.
Tug SEAMAN. attacked 1130/10. A/C destroyed.	Report from SEAMAN with full details. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1500/17 to Adty.)
Avonmouth.	Details of damage by Air Raid last night. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2130/17.)
ARIGUANI.	(Ocean Boarding Vessel) Damaged at Avonmouth 16/1 by splinters and blast during Air-Raid. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2130/17.)
OPAWA.	(British, 10,354 Tons) Telemotor and D.G. gear damaged in Air Raid of 16/1 at Avonmouth. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2130/17.)
NORMAN STAR.	(British, 6817 Tons.) Damaged by splinters and blast in Air Raid at Avonmouth 16/1. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2130/17
ONOBA. MEANDROS.	Fear ONOBA sank during night. Have MEANDROS in tow, steering 85° at 3 knots (ARBUTUS 1800/17 to C. in C. W.A.) ERICA arrived with survivors from Dutch Tanker ONOBA.(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2018/17.)
NORMAN M.L.110.	(Rescue Tug) Reports being machine gunned by enemy A/C at 1150 in vicinity Cross Sand Light Float. Slight damage. One man cut by glass. M/L 110 reports engaging this plane, Dornier 215 at same time and place. No results observed. M/L 110 no hit. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1815/17.)

MOST SECRET.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Liverpool. Arrived L.L. Whalers STAFFA and TULLA (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1011/17.) At 0900/17 a Mine detonated 122° 10 cables from Bar Light Vessel by M/S Trawler. Strong probability that a second Mine also exploded at same time. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1716/17.) Mine Report to 1800/17. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2241/17.)

Dover. Routine Sweeping carried out to 0800/17. (V.A. Dover 1115/17.)

Ice. My 1359/16. Reached ice-field in 66o 52' N. 24° 22' W. (SCOTT 1149/17 to R.A.M.L.)

S.N.71. Your 1211/15. R.A.M.L's 1603/14 concurred in. In view of Ice reported in RAML. 0948/17, laying of S.N.71 should be deferred and laying proceed in order proposed in R.A.M.L. 1603/14. (C. in C. H.F. 1739/17.)

Bristol Channel. Mine exploded by ATHELDUKE in 51° 21' N. 3° 20' W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1159/17.) Normal traffic may be resumed in Bristol Channel Ports. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1847/17.)

ATHELDUKE. (British Tanker, 8966 Tons) Damaged by Mine in Bristol Channel. Being beached. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1159/17.)

A/C. Minelaying. For tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1309/17.)

Milford Haven. Port open, but will be closed at dark till sweeping completed tomorrow. (F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1453/17.) 2 Red Mines detonated by L.L. in 66° 2.4 miles and 83° 6½ cables St. Ann's Head respectively. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1726/17.)

RHODODENDRON. (Corvette) Mined at 1030/17 near G.1. Buoy. Engines and steering-gear out of action but making no water. Entering harbour in tow. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1935/17.)

/SATA.....

MOST SECRET.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

SATA. (M/S. Trawler) Damaged by near Mine about 8 cables 120° from Bar Light Vessel. Returned to harbour under own power. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1935/17.)

VISCOUNT. (Destroyer) Detonated 2 Mines in entrance to Queens Channel. One very near, but no damage so far as is known. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1935/17.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Ship. A ship resembling minelayer German escort vessel KONIGIN LUISE sighted in 050°N. 06' W at 0648/14. Sweepers have searched this vicinity but have found nothing so far. (C. in C. W.A. 1915/17 to Capt. D.5.)

Gun-flashes off Dartmouth. Gun flashes reported 120 degrees distant about 12 miles from Dartmouth at 1940. (C. in C. W.A. 2015/17 to Capt. D.5.)

Red Rockets off Berry Head. Dartmouth reports several red rockets bearing 150 Berry Head 2050. (C. in C. W.A. 2043/17 to KELLY.)

MOST SECRET.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

VANJA.

WINDERMERE escorting Oiler VANJA sailed 1130 G.M.T. for Scapa (route) (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1055Z/17.)

Re ships in convoy supplied with kites.

Your 2019/16. None repetition none. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1120/17.)

K. HAWKSFIELD
SKIPJACK.

Southend 17/1 departure for Dover H.M. Trawler FYLDEA escorting S.S. KATHLEEN HAWKSFIELD and SKIPJACK.(N.C.S.O. Thames 1224/17.)

EMPIRE CONFIDENCE.

Departure 17/1 for Curacao EMPIRE CONFIDENCE.(Route)(N.C.S.O.Reykjavik 1224/17.)

A/A guns & Zigzagging.

For N.C.S.O's. 1942/16/11, has now been sufficiently promulgated and is cancelled. (D.T.D. 1639/17)

Kites to be flown in N.W. Approaches.

In view of the attacks being made on shipping by enemy aircraft in the N.W. Approaches, the necessity for flying Kites by day when in the danger zone is to be impressed on Commodores and Masters. (D.T.D. 1651/17.)

Kites.

Your 2019/16 (Re ships in convoy supplied with kites.none.(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1120/17.)

EAGLESCLIFF HALL.

S.S. EAGLES CLIFF HALL unable to keep up with Convoy W N 69 put into Stornoway owing to stress of weather.(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1719/17.)

Coastal Convoys.
E.N.56.

All 17 ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban 0916/17.)

/P.S.89.....

MOST SECRET.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. Contd.

F.S.89. — 35 ships. (F.O.i/c. Tyne 0946/17.)

F.N.86. Escort. — One destroyer of 16th D.F. is to reinforce escort of F N 86 as far as Outer Dowsing. (C. in C. Nore 1024/17 to Capt. D.16.)

C. in C. Nore 1024 QUORN detailed sailing 1330/17.(Capt. (D) 16. 1120/17.)

F N 85. — S.S.MELROSE ABBEY returned to harbour. (N.C.S.O. Harwich 1119/17.)

F N 86. QUORN. — Sail 1330 to rendezvous with F N 86 due Aldeburgh 1700 today Friday and comply with C. in C. Nore 1024/17.(Capt.D.(16) 1121/17 to QUORN.)

W N 69. — Arrived 1145/17th.(N.C.S.O. Methil 1200/17.)

F.S F.N. C.W. — F.S.88 arrives Southend 1530/17.
F.S.89 due Sheringham 1630/17.
F.N.85 due Flamborough Head 1900/17.
F.N.86 due Aldeburgh 1530/17.
F.S.90 due Flamborough Head 1200/18.
F.N.87 sails Southend 0830/18.
C.W.23 sails Southend 1000/18.
(C. in C. Nore 1200/17.)

W.N.70. CURACOA — Scapa departure 1133 CURACOA to escort W N 70.(A.C.O.S. 1220/17.)

F.N.86. F.S.90. — Additional escort F N 86 and F S 90 QUORN SHEARWATER. One A/S group cancelled

QUORN SHEARWATER. — (F.O.Harwich Force 1242/17 to C. in C. Nore.)

4 M.V's PEARL. CORNELIAN. — Intend to sail Group of four M/VS escorted by PEARL and CORNELIAN from Needles at 1745 today for Dartmouth E.T.A. 0815/18 request lights as follows:(C. in C. Portsmouth 1337/17.)

/F.N.86.....

MOST SECRET.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

F.N.86.	0946/17. 37 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1413/17.)
F.S.90.	Sailed 1400/17. 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1529/17.)
W.N.70. E.N.58. F.S.90. F.N.85.	Convoys. W.N.70 estimated passing through Pentland Firth 1800 E N 52 sails Methil 2230. F.S.90. Berwick 2000 F.N.85 Whitby 2100. (C. in C. Rosyth 1530/17.)
W.N.70 CURACOA.	My 1201. CURACOA is not now joining W.N.70.(CURACOA 1533/17 to PIRCUETTE, WESTON.)
O.B.C. 275.	2315/18 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1547/17.)
F.N.85.	E.T.A. 20 C Buoy 0700/18.(WOOLSTON 1600/17.)
O.B.274.	To avoid possible U boats continue on present course until longitude of dispersal point is reached. (C. in C. W.A. 1605/17.)
F.N.85.	Ships and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1628/17.)
F.S.90.	Details. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1708/17.)
F.N.86.	(Details (N.C.S.O. Thames 1753/17.)

/O.B.M. 275.....

MOST SECRET.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

O.B.M.
275.

1801/17, H.M.T.'s DERBY COUNTY YORK CITY five. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1820/17.)

2. M.V.'s.

Sailed 2 M/Vs. escorted by PEARL and CORNELIAN. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1827/17.)

F. S. 88.
CORMORANT.

Arrived. Non arrival CORMORANT reported F.S.89. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1832/17.)

W.N.71.

Sailed 1847/17. H.M. T.ELLESMERE (S.O.) and SALTARELLO 14 ships.(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1915/17.)

Rosyth 17/1.
H.N.69.
F.S.90.
E.N.58.

Arrivals. FOWEY FOXTROT and RUMBA with W.N.69.Departures. EGRET VERDUN with F.S.90. SPURS PAYNTER STELLA PEGASI and HASTINGS - two latter as additional escort to Pentland.Firth with E.N. 58. (C. in C. Rosyth 2325/17.)

E.N.58.

2230/17, H.M.Ts SPURS PAYNTER,STELLA PEGASI. Additional escort H.M.S.HASTINGS 19 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2341/17.)

Ocean Convoys.

O.G.C.50.

2359/16 Sailed O.G.C.50. Details. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0055/17.)

S.L.61.
VETERAN.

Passing through following positions to join S.L. 61. (VETERAN 1107/17.)

O.G.O.50.

Sailed 0730/17. 3 ships. Escort H.M.T. S.T. 2 EWO.(N.C.S.O. Oban 1116/17.)

/H.X.104...

MOST SECRET.

17. 1. 41.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Ocean Convoys. Contd.

H.X.104.	Advance Sailing Telegram. (S.C.N.O. Halifax, N.S. 1151/27.)
H.X.101.	Destinations.(D.T.D. 1233/17.).
H.X.100.	Arrived VISCOUNT and GENTION escorting (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1302/17.) (H.X.100.)
H.X.104. B.HX.104.	Your 1137/16. Report how many ships in H X 104, and B H X 104 are of 12 knots speed and over.(D.T.D. 1317/17 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.C.S.O. Bermuda.
H.G.50. S.L.S.61. (Combined.)	Extract from Convoy Sailing Telegram as amended by Admiralty.(D.T.D. (1338/17.)
O.G.50.	Londonderry departures LA MALOUINE, SHIKARI, ST. ZENO, LADY ELSA, WELLARD for O.G.50.(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1447/17.)
O.B.278.	My 1507 Ventilation arrangements in ALSEY not satisfactory, can be improved if sailing delayed till Tuesday night. As vessel is crossing equator consider delay justified and propose to sail her p.m./Tuesday to join O.B.278. (N.O.IC. Cardiff, 1835/17, to C. in C. W.A.)
H.X.103.	Sailing Telegram gives 13 ships, request full list. (D.T.D. 1941/17. to C.O.A.C. Halifax N.S/
S.C.18.B.M. DERBY COUNTY.	My 1635/17. S.C.18 B M eight hours late. Make R.V. to the Northward in daylight. C. in C. W.A. 2047/17. to DERBY COUNTY.)
Formation of ocean ocean convoys.	Ref. A.M. 2311/9/11/40. During daylight hours the distance apart of columns is to be three cables.(D.T.D.1659/17.)

MOST SECRET.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CAPE PORTLAND.	(A/S Trawler) Reports herself aground on submerged obstruction in 52° 51' N. 1° 46' E. Requests Tug. (WESTMINSTER 0345/17 to C. in C. Nore.) Tug NORMAN being sent. (C. in C. Nore 0449/17.) NORMAN sailed (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0546/17).
ANDRES.	My 1932/31/12. Ship refloated and anchored in Simons Bay.(S.O.I. Monte Video 1905/17.)
MALCOLM.	A/S Detector broken down. E.T.A. Londonderry 0900 (MALCOLM 0456/17 to C. in C. W.A.)
SIRRA.	(M/S Trawler) Rammed and holed above water by s.s. SKARAAS while lying alongside Princes Pier On 16/1. Will probably require docking.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1142/17.)
TADORNA.	(British, 1947 Tons.) Rammed by s.s. SKARAAS on 16/1 while lying at Princes Pier. Badly holed and has been beached off Craigendiran Pier. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1142/17.)
STELLA POLARIS	(A/S Trawler) Collision with submerged wreck in 58° 5' N 6° 3'W. Damage. (STELLA POLARIS 1157/17.)
NEMEA.	(Greek, 5101 Tons) Can be steamed in if bulkhead is strengthened.(HIGHLANDER 1410/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
WELWYN.	(H.M.Drifter) Arrived in tow with Main Engine defect. Will endeavour to repair locally. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1500/17.)

/BEN CLAS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.

BEN GLAS. (M/S Trawler) My 1245/16. Sailing delayed by fractured main condenser door. Hope complete PM/SO.(F.O.I.C. London 1733/17.)

STOKE CITY (A/S Trawler) Has defective Dynamo. Probable delay 48 hours. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1746/17.)

MALLARD. (British, 352 Tons) Sailed from Newlyn 10/7. Presumed sunk or captured in Channel and crew taken prisoner. One in hospital at Cherbourg on 13/8/40. (D.S.500.)

TOTTENHAM. Returned from B.H.X.102 with heavy weather damage. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1409/17.)

CHARLTON HALL
LLANOVER Britsh CHARLTON HALL and British LLANOVER returned from B H X 102 with deck cargoes shifted and heavy weather damage respectively. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1955/16.)

S.S. SUDANI. Egyptian ship SUDANI reported ashore abandoned 30 miles west of Mersa Matruh. Vessel in ballast.(S.S.T.O. Port Said. 1914/17.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.1.41.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Policy, Interception of Vichy Ships.

Your 1407/10. Following instructions have been issued to South Atlantic Station Begins.
(1) If Vichy French Merchant Ships are being sent in or brought in and French Warships subsequently dispute possession the Merchant Ship is to be set free after protest unless the British Force present is overwhelming superior in which case force may be used to compel them to desist from intervention but British Warships are not to fire the first shot. In no case is the French Escorting Warship to be ordered or forcibly brought into port.
(2) If French Warships appear and dispute posession this is to be reported to C.in C. S.A. and Admiralty but if no other instructions are received within a reasonable period action is to be taken as in (1) above. (Ends.)
(C.in C. S.A. 1343N/17 to Admty.)

My No.125/(?62) dated 15/11/40 as amended by S.A. Station message No.1330 dated 30/12/40. Repetition of instructions to S.A. Station as in 1343N/17.
(C.in C. S.A. 1903N/17 to S.A. Station).

North Atlantic.

PHOEBE Ammunition

Cancel my 0225/19 (Landing of ammunition from PHOEBE). 20% 5.25 ammunition is to be landed. (D.T.S.D. 0336/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ST. HELIOSE

Report ST. HELIOSE believed former ship TANIAERK left Casablanca for Bordeaux yesterday morning. May be escorted by two German U-Boats.
(V.A. (S) 0721/17 to S/Ms Area B.)

Information of ships calling at P. Delgada.

Information regarding merchant ships likely to call at Ponta Delgada is difficult to obtain.
In future in addition to (a) ships known to be calling at Ponta Delgada you will also be informed of (b) ships known to be on passage near Azores who may therefore call at Ponta Delgada.
(Capt. S.(8) 1426/17 to OLYMPUS, OTUS).

DENBIGHSHIRE.

Capetown 5/1 Liverpool. Route.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1506/17).

H.G.51. FOLKESTONE

Gibraltar 1500/17. Departure FOLKESTONE escorting H.G.51. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1516/17).

/ Merchant ships likely ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.1.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Merchant ships likely to call at Ponta Delgada.

My 1426/17. (A) SURPRISE due 19/1 (B) Portuguese LUSO left Lisbon 15/1 for Gloucester New Jersey. (Capt. (S) 8 1554/17 to OLYMPUS, OTUS).

Estimated position of submarines.

At 0800/18 and movements following 24 hours. (F.O.C.N.A. 1810/17).

FEARLESS

Gibraltar 2200/17 departure DUNCAN and FURY for R.V. with FEARLESS. (S.O.(I) Gib. 2210/17).

Convoy H.G.51 FIREDRAKE

Gibraltar 2315/17 departure FIREDRAKE for R.V. with H.G.51 during daylight 18/1 parting company dark 20/1. (S.O.(I) Gib. 2310/17).

South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE's aircraft.

If not interned, aircraft would probably be able take off A.M./18 and would endeavour to contact an H.M. Ship if I am advised that one is in vicinity. Otherwise I will arrange for British Ship LYNTON GRANGE close Punta Del Este to take off crew and, if possible, embark plane. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 0104Z/17.)

Your 0104Z/17. No warship likely to be near. Endeavour to embark aircraft in LYNTON GRANGE as proposed. If unable to embark will authorities consent to aircraft remaining until suitable opportunity occurs to join warship or embark in other ship. (C.in C. S.A. 1417/17 to S.O.(I) Montevideo).

SELANDIA RANCHI

SELANDIA sailed and met RANCHI in accordance with C.in C. E.I. 1926Z/15. E.T.A. of SELANDIA Mombasa. (N.O.i/c Durban 0544Z/17).

Arrival of A.M.C's at Halifax etc.

F.O.C.N.P.'s 1230/13 is being passed to you for information. (Adty. 0556/17 to C.in C. S.A.)

Convoys W.S.5B. S.L.S.63, S.L.63 A/S escorts.

C.in C. S.A. 1201N/17 see Operations Volume.

/ Troop Transports ...

MOST SECRET.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Troop Transports. My 2223/13/1/41 General Smuts is pressing for very early information as to availability of transports as result of further communication from Mr. Churchill. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1216/17).

Southbound Ships crossing 20° N. Route. (D.T.D. 1132/17).

CORFU Your 1132/15 (No trace in W.R.) CORFU sails Freetown 17/1 (anticipated date of arrival Calcutta) but this is necessarily a rough estimate as date will depend on weather conditions and how temporary repairs stand up to voyage.
(C.in C. S.A. 1133N/17 to C.in C. E.I.)

Force T. Propose Force T sails from Simonstown a.m./20 and commences patrol from position B at dawn/23. C.in C. E.I. 1450/16.
2. Force T could then operate for six days in patrol area before reaching 25% fuel remaining.
3. Proposed time of arrival Durban 1000/29. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1303B/17 to C.in C. S.A.).

Raider bearings. My 1651/16 is cancelled. Request bearings from U.K. on Norddeich frequencies may be forwarded when obtained and as early as possible when those reported from South Atlantic cut in apparently false positions. (C.in C. S.A. 1347/17).

ANJA
KURIKKA 16/1 Finnish ship ANJA sailed for Saint Lucia e.t.a. 27/1. KURIKKA sailed for Petsamo without communicating next Port of Call, suspicious conduct.
(N.C.S.O. Bahia 1352/17).

Suspicious light reported by SAGAING. SAGAING reports when in 32° 45' N. 21° 9' W. at 0533/6/41 sighted white light and for a short time two lights as if from same vessel. Bearing of light remained approximately constant for about half hour in spite of alteration of course.
Commodore Elliott suggest this was submarine maintaining touch by sound on H.D.F. and endeavouring to make ship shew navigational lights to facilitate attack.
He suggests all ships should be warned not to shew lights and alter away in such circumstances. Consider unlikely that submarine would act with intention as suggested but agree that importance repeat importance of ships not showing navigation lights and altering away when strange lights are sighted should be emphasized.
(C.in C. S.A. 1709N/17).

/ROWALLAN CASTLE ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ROWALLAN CASTLE. Your 0901E/14. Is ROWALLAN CASTLE instructed to cross circumference of a circle with a radius of 150 miles from Malin Head, at 0600 B.S.T./3/2 vide my 1236/7. Report positions on Ocean route between "I" repetition "I" and 70 West. (D.T.D. 1742/17 to N.C.S.O. Capetown).

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE — Route. Destination. Further employment of FURIOUS (D.O.D.H. 1729/17)
See Operations Volume.

DORSETSHIRE. Orders. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1749/17)
See Operations Volume.

Transports
KENYA
SOBIESKI — Orders. Escort DUNEDIN. Re DELHI, DRAGON. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1750/17)
See Operations Volume.

Convoy W.S.5B. Re diversion (A.C.N.S.(F) 1811/17)
See Operations Volume.

S.S. ANDRES My 1933/31/12. Ship now refloated and anchored in Simons Bay (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1905/17).

Raider bearings. Following bearings were obtained at 1919/17. (D.D.I.C. 2041/17 to C.in C. S.A.).

FURIOUS
route. Adty. 1729/17 and my 1815/15 amend position (e) to read. Speed to be adjusted to arrive at this position (date). (C.in C. S.A. 2145N/17 to FURIOUS, NEPTUNE).

SHROPSHIRE
DEVONSHIRE
DRAGON My 1855/12 to DEVONSHIRE only. On relief by SHROPSHIRE DEVONSHIRE is to proceed to Simonstown for fuel. DEVONSHIRE is to sail in company with DRAGON A.M./23 covering Western edge of Cape Freetown Trade Route at speed of advance 18 knots for St. Helena. On arrival at St. Helena DEVONSHIRE proceed direct to Freetown at speed of advance 20 knots and DRAGON complete with fuel from LAURELWOOD. Orders for further movements of DRAGON will be issued later. (C.in C. S.A. 2235N/17).

W.S.5B. Your 1154/11/1. Water requirements can be met provided 6000 tons are not exceeded. Time required approximately 3 days. (C.in C. S.A. 2248/17 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PERTH, movements.	PERTH left Malta 2300/16 for Alexandria (route). (Capt. S.(I) 0231/17).
6 Swordfish for Heraklinn	Six Swordfish leaving Malta 0800 G.M.T./17 for Heraklinn weather permitting. T.O.O. 0441/17. (C.O.S. Alexandria 0453/17).
USK, orders.	If submerged surface ?immediately. A/S trawlers will escort you from and of searched channel. (V.A. Malta 0830/17 to USK).
Air Attack on Malta. 16/1.	Details of damage (V.A. Malta 1021/17) See Mediterranean Volume.
Employment of Aircraft at Malta.	Policy. (C.in C. Med. 1325/17 Adty. 1736/17) See Mediterranean Volume.
Re fitting of H.A. gun in destroyers.	Your 1535/16/10. In view of increased enemy air potential and offensive in Mediterranean do you now wish destroyers proceeding to join your Command to be fitted with 1 - 4" H.A. gun instead of after tubes. These guns have proved very valuable in Home waters. (D.T.S.D. 1417/17 to C.in C. Med.)
PARTHIAN, supply ship sunk.	PARTHIAN reports sinking a 7000 ton laden supply ship 7 miles South of Spartevento Cape, Italy, with torpedo. Ship believed sunk. Date of attack not yet (?known). (C.in C. Med. 1507/17).
Red Sea Shipping.	Adty. 1406/10. Para. 2 (2) is not clear. If proposal is that ocean going ships should transhipp cargo at Suez to feeder service for Alexandria Port Said and Haifa this is quite impracticable. All ports in Egypt are at present fully taxed to berth and clear existing convoys. (C.in C. Med. 1615/17 to Adty.)
Malta Air Report.	X.2970 "I" 39 17/1 Combined services report Malta up to 1700/17. All times G.M.T. Reference my "I" 37 16/1 German aircraft casualties dive bombing attack established as follows. Civilian casualties. 200 houses demolished, 500 damaged. At 1315 hours unidentified enemy aircraft attempted recco over Malta about 15,000 feet in very bad weather and probably saw little. Bad weather prevented any reconnaissance from Malta today. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1710/17).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy B.N.13.

Departures 0015Z CALEDON SHOREHAM FLAMINGO INDUS PARRAMATTA KIMBERLEY CRICKET and Tug PROTECTOR with B N 13. (N.O.1/c Aden 0020/17).

Sailing of Force T.

My 1457/16 for "as soon as possible" read "as soon as practicable". (C.in C. E.I. 0354Z/17).

S.S. TALLIMATE.

(1) Brazilian ship TALLIMATE left Lourenco Marques December 28th for Aden due January (?10th) but not arrived. Details. (C.in C. E.I. 0640Z/17).

S.S. INTREPIDO re cargo.

N.O.1/c Durban's 0855/16. Adty.1840/12 refers. (C.in C. E.I. 0650Z/17).

FORMIDABLE.

Re escort. (C.in C. E.I. 0746 Z/17) See Operations Volume.

B.N.13.

Convoy Sailing Telegram B.N.13 0130Z/17 KATIE MOLLER 0430Z, BRUTTDAL 0700Z, to overtake convoy.
Escorts, CALEDON, KIMBERLEY, INDUS, FLAMINGO, SHOREHAM, PARAMATTA, CRICKET.
(List and cargoes).
(N.O.S.O. Aden, 0910Z/17).

Contraband.

S.O.(I) Bombay's 0626/15 passed to you. Place to which goods from Bandar Shahpur are being transferred is in doubt but is being checked. Pass to Arfar. (C.in C. E.I. 1150/17 to Adty.)

TALLBATE

Cancel my 0640/16 (re Brazilian Ship TALLBATE). Ship has arrived Aden.

Anti-U-boat campaign (additional security to convoys).

A.M. 1641/11 para. 5 B request new night dispositions and tactics be communicated. (C.in C. E.I. 1424Z/17).

Convoy sailing telegrams.

Cancel My 1847/15 and substitute convoy sailing telegrams should in future be sent as two separate signals.
(D.T.D. 1507/17 to C.in C.E.I., C.in C. Med.).

B.N.13.

B.N.13 passed Perim 1730Z/17 speed of advance 7.5 knots. Two ships have joined SITOEBONDO, BRATTDAL. ADA or (LCBK) lagging astern.
(PARRAMATTA 1735Z/17).

/ Air Operations. ....

MOST SECRET.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Air Operations.

A.539 17/1. Daily Operational Summary. Following for 24 hours ending 1500 17/1. Single Blenheim attacks Assab and Diredawa. (Air H.Q. Aden 1742/17).

Reply to request for criticisms of raider situation report.

Your 1951/4 (1) Concur generally with statement.
3. Some of the lessons learnt from actual attack on routes not thick in traffic (?in) a leisurely manner (about eight knots) relying on accurate information from agents, aircraft and being able to D/F re- radiated W/T receivers (b) enemy however is gradually becoming bolder owing to his capture of OLE JACOB and attack on Nauru. (c) having disposed of 1 ship raider has usually remained in same area to catch more (d) armed merchant cruisers are of little value for hunting down and destroying a modern raider due to low speed short gun range and poor equipment. Their best chance is a lucky meeting at night.
4. My suggestions are (a) for limiting raiders bag (i) stop leakage of information by drastic steps (ii) replace or modify all re-raidated merchant ships receivers (iii) enforce Admiralty Instruction number 163 more vigorously and insist on a written certificate from a Senior Convoying Officer to effect that he has tested receivers (iv) to continue policy of dispersion but routeing shipping so that any focal areas are brought as near as possible to our bases (b) to attract raider towards an H.M. Ship by the means of ruse (i) by naval authority transmitting false merchant navy code message in a compromised recoding table (ii) for H.M. Ships to use re-radiating transmission receivers on 500 kcs. per second. (iii) by means of false distress messages made by warships and dates cancelled.
5. Consider "ruse" policy should be co-ordinated by Admiralty. Final.
(C.in C. E.I. 1748Z/17 to Adty.).

/ Re showing dimmed lights .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

No showing dimmed lights.

Your 1522Z/9 my 1827/29/4/1940 subject to restrictions imposed by local C.in C. British merchant vessels proceeding independently should normally show dimmed navigation lights throughout the whole of G.B.M.S. Area 6 B.
Request you will state whether these regulations have been caried, in order that the necessary instructions may be promulgated generally.
(D.T.D. 1854/17 to C.in C. E.I.)

S.S. SUDANI.

See Casualties and Defects.

Mogadiscio.

Air reconnaissance 17/1 showed a large cargo ship at Mogadiscio. Have asked R.A.F. to bomb. No cruiser immediately available. (C.in C. E.I. 2030/17).

China.

Proposed mining of E. Coast of Johore.

C.in C. China 0801 Z/17 see Operations Volume.

Adty. 1707/24/10 and 1931/10 C.in C. N.E.I. requests general ¤ permission for Dutch Warships to use Harbours and Roadsteads in British Australian and New Zealand territory or Mandated Islands for fuelling from Dutch Tankers. He also desires to station a tanker at Port Moresby. Request your concurrence.
(C.in C. China 0803Z/17 to A.C.N.B.)
¤ As received ? British.

Air Developments Sembawang.

Your 1854/29/11 and your 1150/7. After further discussion with C.in C. Far East A.O.C. and local Government satisfactory arrangements have been made to avoid Fleet Air Arm developments holding up R.A.F. expansion scheme. Site selected for repair yard is to eastward of Sembawang aerodrome on the opposite side of the main road to Naval Base.
(C.in C. China, 0841Z/17, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Ships in H.X.104 and B.H.X.104 of 12 knots speed.

Your 1317/17. One. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1020/17 to Adty.)

Your 1317/17 H.X.104 Two.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1125/17 to Adty.)

B.H.104.

Your 1137/16. If your proposals are approved intend that Commodore Butler now at Bermuda should act as Commodore of BH.104.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1032/17 to C.O.A.C.)

CARADOC orders.

Leave Trinidad A.M./18 and proceed to patrol independently shipping route between Caribbean Sea and Cape Orange vide my 1002/2. Leave patrol so as to arrive Trinidad 23/1.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1152/17).

DESPATCH.

My 2212/11. Leave patrol so as to arrive at Jamaica 22/1.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1302/17 to S.O. West Indies Force).

S.S. TOTTENHAM (B.H.X.102).

Returned with heavy weather damage
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1302/17).

EMPRESS OF ASIA
EMPRESS OF RUSSIA

Re loading cargo etc.
(D. of S.T. 1946/17).

DEMPO
J. OLDENBARNEVELT
use with T.C.9.

My 1201/16 and your 1802/14. Anticipate DEMPO and JOHANVAN OLDENBARNEVELT will be completed at Halifax before 5/2. Understand total accommodation in these two ships is 1310. Can they be used for troops and sailed with T.C.9.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1713/17 to Adty.)

MALOJA
ALAUNIA

Your 1738/17. MALOJA repairs will be completed p.m./22. Intend ALAUNIA to escort B.H.X.101. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1912/17 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ORINOCO

Ref. N.A. Washington 1255/15 Tampico reports efforts to cast cylinder head for ORINOCO in Mexico not successful. New one en route from Germany via Siberia Japan expected shortly. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 0901/17).

OSORNO

From Callao. Concepcion reports oats and wool being loaded German ship OSORNO. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1104/17).

TINOS

Reported on 16/1 to be repainting. Thought to be masquerading as Spanish "Castillo" class ship. Is short of some officers and seamen. (D.S. 501).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

STELLA
XXIV MAGGIO

N.C.S.O. Pernambuco Reports. STELLA transferred about 4,000 tons cargo to Brazilian ship MERITY, XXIV MAGGIO discharged 2,000 tons to locate flour mill 13/1. (S.O.(I) Freetown 2112/17).

MAURO CROCE

Expected at Barcelona 18/1 or 19/1. (D.S. 501).

ATALANTA

At Las Palmas. Buenos Aires firm pressing for unloading some of the cargo, property of Argentine buyers. Italian authorities are forbidding the unloading. (D.S. 501).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

CAMPANA

It appears probable CAMPANA will sail tomorrow Saturday. (B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1020/17).

GUADELOUPE

Intercepted Letter dated 31/12 states GUADELOUPE called at Casablanca and should take cargo on the same conditions as S.S. FORT ROYAL. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1303/17 to Adty.)

MENDOZA

At 2200Z/17 MENDOZA (? anchored) in Porto Bello Bay. (ASTURIAS 2200Z/17).

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

OROPESA
ZEALANDIC
ALMEDA STAR
torpedoed
MEANDRES
ORADA
bombed

OROPESA assumed sunk. TENACITY proceed to assistance of ZEALANDIC in position 58° 28'N. 20° 43' W.
SUPERMAN proceed to position 55° 55'N. 12° 14' W. where MEANDRES and ORADA were afloat at 1815/16.
THAMES proceed to assist ALMEDA STAR in position 58° 16' N. 13° 40' at 0600/17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1029/17 to TENACITY, SUPERMAN, THAMES).

ALMEDA STAR
ZEALANDIC

Your 0010. Am proceeding in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 0713/17. Difficult to do C. in C. W.A. 0003 due to shortage of water. (ST. ALBANS 0956/17).

OROPESA
ZEALANDIC

Endeavour to contact TENACITY and take off survivors from OROPESA estimated position at 2000 056° 55' N. 013° 13' W. steering for ZEALANDIC in position 058° 28' N. 020° 43' W. at 11 knots and then endeavour to contact SUPERMAN in position 056° 49' N. 011° 57' W. and take off survivors. (C.in C. W.A. 1809/17 to WOLVERINE).

S.S. ZEALANDIC

Can you detach one Destroyer from SALOPIAN escort to assist ZEALANDIC torpedoed in position 058° 28' N. 020° 43' W. at 2348. (C.in C. W.A. 0003/17 to R.A.(D) H.F.)

LEGION and DOUGLAS proceeding to comply with C.in C. W.A. 0003/17.
R.A.(D) H.F. 0125/17.

20 survivors on board discontinued search at 1500 proceeding ZEALANDIC. (TENACITY 1500/17).

Report whether DOUGLAS has gone to ZEALANDIC. (C.in C. W.A. 1737/17 to LEGION).

Your 1737 No. Insufficient oil. Am proceeding ZEALANDIC expect to arrive in position given in your 0003/17 at dawn/18. (LEGION 1825/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

ALMEDA STAR.

S S S S 58 16 N. 13 40 W. ALMEDA STAR torpedoed. (Scapa W/T 0649/17).

ALMEDA STAR bearing from Malin Head radio 302°. (Scapa W/T TOR 0706/17).

One Destroyer is to proceed to S.S. ALMEDA STAR torpedoed in position 058° 16' N. 013° 40' W. at 0653. (C.in C. W.A. 0713/17 to LEGION, DOUGLAS).

/ Sailed SALVONIA ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

Sailed SALVONIA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0822/17).

C.in C. Western Approaches 0713/17. LEGION will proceed (corrupt group) ST. ALBANS complying with R.A.D. H.F. 0125/17. (LEGION 0910/17).

No report of ALMEDA STAR or of any of the survivors has been received (D.S. 502, 19/1).

Following had been made to ALMEDA STAR on 16/1 :-
From Admiralty. For ALMEDA STAR only. As soon as possible after position A steer for new B 040° 94 miles from old B then direct to new D 010° 354 miles from old D thence by route ordered ignoring C.
(D.T.D. 1445/16).

OROPESA
(torpedoed 16/1).

OROPESA's boats found. 22 survivors picked up. Second Officer reports several other boats got away from ships, one boat sighted at 1600/16. Intend continuing search until dark then proceeding Londonderry fuelling and rejoining S.C.18.
(WESTCOTT 1235/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

TENACITY reported at 0940/17 rescued 20 survivors from OROPESA in position 055° 42' N. 011° 17' W. and searching further. (C.in C. W.A. 1309/17 to WOLVERINE).

OROPESA received 2nd torpedo and sank 0230/16 056° 30' N. 011° 40' W.
(TENACITY 1400/17).

Picked up boat with 35 men from OROPESA. Now searching for other boat believed to be in vicinity.
(SUPERMAN 1420/17).

Two more boats from OROPESA found accounting for a further 55 survivors. Confirmed that six boats left ship. Have just sufficient fuel to reach Liverpool which is home port of most survivors some of whom are suffering from severe exposure. Intend to proceed to Liverpool after dark. (WESTCOTT 1820/17).

MOST SECRET.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1534. By D/F at 1534/17 position of Italian U-Boat was 56° - 57° N. 13° - 15° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1640/17).

Your 1651B/16. Bearings from U.K. show that this unit was in approximate position 49°N. 27° W. and was probably a U-Boat. See my 1353/14. (D.D.I.C. 0030/17 to C.in C. S.A.).

1740. Suspected U-boat reported in position 054° 08' N. 017° 55' W. at 1740/17. (C.in C. W.A. 1937/17). (See Attacks, DELPHINIUM)

2125. 55°N., 23° W., 510' W. of Bloody Foreland. (Italian) Position indefinite (D.S. 501).

2257. 55° N., 20° W., 410° W. of Bloody Foreland. Position indefinite (D.S. 501).

Estimated U/B dispositions. It is thought that more than the average number of U/Bs will be at sea for at least the next 10 days.

German.
One to Southward of Cape Verde Islands.
At least three within 175 miles of Rockall East of 15° W. of which 1 was in 58° 16' N. 13° 40' W. at 0649/17 - and one about 120 miles to S. or S.E. of Rockall at 1216/17.
At least six between 50° N. and 60° N. and West of 20° W.
1 was in 58° 30' N. 20° 43' W. at 2348/16.
1 about 56° 30' N. 24° W. at 1208/16 and probably 1 in 51° N. 27° 30' W. at 2000/16.
1 about 50° N. 16° W. outward bound
1 about 47° 30' N. 13° W. inward bound.

Italian.
One in Freetown area.
One in about 53° N. 22° W. at 2044/16.
Three more in N.W. Approaches or Atlantic whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1411/17.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1740/17. Attacked suspected U.Boat in position. 54° 08' N. 17° 55' W. sighted at long range but unable to ? touch with A/S contact. (DELPHINIUM 1740/17).

a.m./17. By CHARLESTOWN, 58.41 N., 06.06 W., attacked contact, no result observed (A.S.) (D.S. 301) (D.O.R. 18/1).

(4)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Convoy C.W. 23 Shelled

The German batteries fired four salvoes of 2 rounds each whilst Convoy C.W. 23 was passing between Dover and Dungeness late this evening. No damage is reported.

Shortage of Aircraft at Sullom Voe

The strength of 700 Squadron at Sullom Voe has been so reduced that C. in C., H.F., reports its operations of little value. It has been necessary to cancel certain patrols and escort duties near Orkneys and Shetlands at a time when the liklihood of submarines returning to Germany by this route increases with the intensity of our presence ~~presence~~ sunk in the Biscay ports and as the submarines work further North in search of our convoys.

Sweep to Scilly Is.

Capt. D. 5. in KELLY with KIPLING and JERSEY last night carried out a sweep to the Scilly Is. There were no incidents.

A/S Sweep

BEAGLE and BRILLIANT sailed from Londonderry at 0035, to carry out an A/S sweep north of Rockall and to search for SS ALMEDA STAR which was torpedoed yesterday. Aircraft are also assisting in the search for ALMEDA STAR and ZEALANDIC. No trace of these ships has yet been reported.

Military Convoys

The sailing of military convoys has been regularised. These convoys are to be organised and sailed as far as possible in the same way as Trade Convoys.

Routeing of E.N. Convoys

In view of the absence of aircraft attacks off Rattray Head during recent weeks the fast E.N. Convoys are to revert to the direct route to the Pentland Firth instead of being diverted into Moray Firth.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.1.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

The weather caused patrols and escorts today to be considerably curtailed. Convoy O.G. 50 was escorted by 3 aircraft throughout daylight today in the N.W. Approaches.

Minor attacks were made on Brest and Cherbourg last night.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.S. 98 was attacked in the Thames Estuary this morning, but no ships were damaged.

Damage was caused in the dock area at Swansea in an attack last night.

Ramsgate was attacked at 0141, No naval damage occurred.

Some naval casualties resulted from a raid on Skegness Town at 1600 today.

Mining

Comparatively uneventful day. Swansea and Avonmouth were opened in the course of the afternoon and evening respectively.

M/S Trawler LUDA CORD detonated a mine off Plymouth, 40 yards off her port beam No damage is reported.

C. in C., Home Fleet has made certain proposals for operations in enemy waters.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.1.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

D/F bearings indicate enemy units near 31° N., 26° W., at 0800 today.

South Atlantic

BRITISH UNION Sunk by Raider

BRITISH UNION (Tanker 6987 tons) reported toni ht that she was being shelled by an enemy raider about 700 miles south of the Azores. ARAWA saw gunfire and searchlight about 12 miles away, but on reaching the position nothing was to be seen except one boat's crew from the BRITISH UNION. The men believe that their ship was sunk by a U-Boat which accompanied the raider. The latter is described as a large merchant ship.

MENDOZA

ASTURIAS this morning boarded MENDOZA 16½ miles from Punta das Cabecudas Light and placed an armed guard on board. Between Montevideo and the point of interception MENDOZA four times reported en clair the position of British warship, in contravention of neutrality.

Mediterranean

Air Attack on Malta Aerodromes

Hal Far and Luqa aerodromes were heavily attacked this afternoon by about 80 German aircraft covered by fighters. At Hal Far 5 aircraft were destroyed or damaged beyond repair and others received minor damage. Luqa aerodrome was rendered unserviceable, one aircraft was destroyed, one badly damaged and all others slightly damaged. Our fighters shot down 6 of the enemy and it is thought A.A. fire brought down three. The British losses were 2 fighters, the pilot of one being saved.

/This is.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.1.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

This is the third large scale attack by the German Air forces in Sicily, the first having been against the Fleet and the next two against Malta. In each attack at least 60 aircraft took part and it is believed that the whole force in Sicily has been engaged. The German losses in these attacks have been 20 to 30 aircraft, with more damaged.

Air Attack on Suez Canal

Two enemy aircraft last night attacked the Suez Canal causing temporary obstruction to the road and Sweet Water Canal near Kantara.

Kantara was attacked again today, and El Arish (on coast 100 miles East of Port Said,)was also bombed, but no damage was caused in either case.

Tobruk Bombed

13 R.A.F. machines bombed Tobruk last night. It is reported that a German aircraft force landed west of Tobruk today and the crew was captured.

Acoustic Mining

The Admiralty today warned C. in C., Med. of the possibility of acoustic mining by enemy aircraft in the Mediterranean, and the precautions to be observed.

East Indies

C. in C., E.I., intends about 1st Feb. to introduce a new Red Sea Convoy Programme in order to increase the flow and speed up the turn round of shipping.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.1.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 2330/17 (D.C. 0004/18) At 1130/18 (D.C. 1155/18, 1554/18)

Eastleigh R.A.F.A.S. Station — Defence of (Eastleigh 1420/18)

Scapa Blockships — Re INVERLANE, LYCIA, TABARKA (A.C.O.S. 1440/18)

CRISPIN Liverpool A.A.Defence — For A.A. duties off Liverpool to sail with O.C. 51 26/1 (C. in C., W.A., 1907/18)

Iceland — Re depot ship and S/M cable from Grotta etc., (F.O.i/c Iceland 2157/18) Re W/T (F.O.Iceland 1709/18)

Movements

TORBAY Escort — My 1814/14 and 1724/16. Owing to delay in TORBAY's programme GUILLEMOT will be unable to escort her. (C. in C., Nore, 1016/18)

INTREPID and SEALION to R.V. for special exercises. — Admty. 1032/16. Propose INTREPID leaves Humber a.m./20 arriving Blyth p.m. same day. (D. 20. 1114/18)

Your 1114/18 approved. (C. in C., Nore, 2227/18)

Town Class re working up at Londonderry — Working up facilities at Scapa are inadequate to meet demands of TOWN's as well as new construction destroyers. Request your remarks on possibilities of berthing up to 6 extra TOWN destroyers at Londonderry for working up and of providing target towing tug. This extra commitment must not be at the expense of basing the maximum possible number of Escort Forces at Londonderry or of its use as a fuelling Base. (D.A./S.W. 1120/18 to C. in C., W.A.)

/Admty. 1120/18.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.1.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Town Class re working up at Londonderry-Contd.	Admty. 1120/18. Request your remarks. In the meantime Town Class destroyers are being held at Plymouth for working up practices from Dartmouth. (C. in C., W.A., 1917/18 to N.O.I.C., Londonderry)
SIKH	Scapa departure 1210 SIKH for Tyne escorted by PUNJABI until 2000. (A.C.O.S. 1231/18)
WHITSHED MOOLTAN	C. in C., Nore's 1758/17. R.A.D. is requested to sail WHITSHED so as to arrive Tyne by a.m./23. F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail MOOLTAN escorted by WHITSHED so as to comply with C. in C., Nore's proposals. (C. in C., Rosyth 1239/18)
SKEENA HESPERUS BROADWAY	Immediate. Proceed Londonderry with despatch and complete with fuel. (C. in C., W.A., 1307/18)
M.L. 169	My 0841/18. M.L. 169 return to Tyne.
Patrols Sheltering	My 1103/18. All patrols are sheltering till weather moderates. (N.O.i/c Brightlingsea 1517/18)
FURIOUS NEPTUNE	Admty 1729/17 and C. in C., S.A. 2145N/17 Route from position (E) Ships are to proceed in company at best speed from position (C) (C. in C., W.A., 1559/18)
Northern Patrol	Tonight. Trawler lines, 5 trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1544/18)
J 3968	Re surface and air escort (C. in C., H.F. 1732/18)
CRISPIN	My 1553. CRISPIN is for A/A duties off Liverpool. Ship will be required to sail with O.G. 51 on 26/1. (C. in C., W.A.1907/11 Leave Clyde 1200/19 to arrive Liverpool a.m/20 Route. (F.O.C.N.P. 2000/18)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.1.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

A/S Sweep north of Rockall

Your 1949/17. BEAGLE BRILLIANT sailed at 0035/18. (Capt. D. Londonderry 0040/18)

AGNETE MAERSK

SS AGNETE MAERSK sailed Limerick night 16/17 for Irish Sea possibly southabout. If met she is to be escorted to Belfast. (C. in C., W.A., 0101/18)

Western Channel Patrol

Plymouth 17/1. Arrivals 1430 KASHMIR and JUPITER (C. in C., W.A., 0029/18)

Operation P.V. 1.

Weather report indicates probability strong southerly wind this evening. If weather is unsuitable order Motor Launches to proceed into Dover. (C. in C., Nore, 1121/18)

Convoy C.W. 23 Shelled

C.W. 23 passing Dover at 2130 and Dungeness at 2330. Four Salvoes of two rounds each fell to the westwards between 2203 and 2210. (V.A.Dover 2338/18)

Submarines

CACHALOT
LA CAPRICIEUSE

Intend to sail CACHALOT escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE from Rothesay at 0440/21 for vicinity of Cape Wrath. E.T.A. 0900/22 thence CACHALOT escorted by Trawler in accordance with A,C,O,S, 1044/16 to position 61° N., 2° 30' W., and thence unescorted to North Eastward, LA CAPRICIEUSE to Barrow-in-Furness. (S. 2. 1019/18)

H. 32

Intend to sail H.M.Submarine H. 32 escorted by VIRGINIA for Holyhead at 1300/20. F.O.i/c Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection during daylight hours (Capt. S. 7. 1205/18)

My 1205/18. Amend to read 24 hours later (Capt. S. 7. 1858/18)

Positions

At 0800/19 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O. s. 1641/18, 1936/18)

/TUNA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.1.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

TUNA
OTUS

(A) TUNA is to be sailed on 29/1 for Azores patrol.

(B) Route.

(D) OTUS leaves patrol after dark 5/2 (Route) (F.O. S. 1642/18)

British Air Activity

AMBUSCADE
AUBRETIA
FELIXSTOWE
HOLLYHOCK

My 0710/18. Expect Sunderland about 1100 (C. in C., Rosyth 1016/18)

Cancel my 1016/18. Expect Sunderland 1330. will escort you for about one hour. (C. in C., Rosyth 1206/18)

Patrol

Air Patrol FAIR cancelled for today. (C. in C., Rosyth 1236/18)

FURIOUS
801 Squadron

On arrival disembark 801 Squadron aircraft and personnel and "Skua" stores to Donibristle (D.N.A.D. 1659/18 to FURIOUS)

Daily Summary Operations

(200 Group A 381 Recd. 2110/18)

Orkneys and Shetlands A/S Air Watch

The effect of your 1504/3 (Reduction in allocation of Aircraft to certain ships) and the need to retain one Walrus on board each cruiser reduces the strength of 700 Squadron at Sullom Voe so much that its operation is of little value. It has been necessary to cancel two useful patrols and certain escort duties in the vicinity of the Orkneys and Shetlands.

2. The likelihood of the submarines returning to Germany by this route increases with the intensity of our pressure on the Biscay Ports, and as the Submarines work further North in search of convoys.

/3.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.1.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Orkneys and Shetlands. A/S Air Watch, Contd.

3. Request that Coastal Command undertake a close watch for submarines and surface craft in these waters which are important for the security of approaches to the Fleet base and of its exercise areas, as well as a likely passage for submarines. (C. in C., H.F., 2229/18)

Enemy Air Activity

Attack on Ramsgate

(Civil damage in attack at 0141/18. (N.O.I.C.Ramsgate 0335/18)

Convoy F.S. 89

Enemy bombing Convoy BOOTY position 51° 49'N 1° 32' E., (VIVIEN 1100/18)

My 1058 6 bombs no hits. (VIVIEN 1103/18)

Attack on Skegness

In Air Raid on Skegness Town at 1600/18 following probable casualties amongst Liberty men. (ROYAL ARTHUR 1929/18)

Mining

Laying of Beacons

R.A.M.L. 0948/18 to SCOTT

Avonmouth Swansea

No ships can dock at Avonmouth or Swansea at present. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff 0958/18)

My 0958/18 Ships can now enter or leave Swansea docks. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff 1448/18)

My 0958/18 Ships can now enter Avonmouth (F.O.I.C., Cardiff 1811/18)

Operation S.N. 7.

My 1208/15/12 and 1603/14. Proposed order of laying is a s follows. (R.A.M.L. 1004/18 1604/18)

Operations in Enemy Waters

Proposals by C. in C., H.F., (C. in C., H.F., 1632/18) See Operations Volume.

Plymouth LUDA LORD

Mine detonated 0900 by LUDA LORD S.A. 'A' 203 degrees break water light 2.3 miles. Port beam 40 yards. (C. in C., W.A, 1754/18)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Suspicious Ship.	Reported by KINGSTON ONYX. Later identified as friendly (KINGSTON ONYX 1255/18, 1340/18, 1416/18, D.D.I.C. 1546/18).
Mines off Gripholen.	It is reported that Germans have laid mines near ~~of~~ Gripholen (63° 14'N. 7° 43'E) C.2. (D.D.I.C. 1258/18).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Minches Route.

127 Admiralty Message 1340/29/10 amended my Admiralty's 1236/7/1. In the case of outward bound independent ships routed through Minches substitute latitude 058° 15'N. for circumference of circle with radius of 150 miles from Malin Head. 1015/18.

Request you will give instructions to authority abroad so that inward bound independent ships routed through Minches will conform with my 1015 by crossing 058° 15'N. at 0600.
(C. in C. W.A., 1023/18).

QZ Messages.

My 1441/25/11. Request you will consider if the addition of the serial number of the latest QZ information in the possession of each ship included in daily signal would assist local arrangements at principal ports.
(D.T.D. 1243/18 to C. in C. W.A.).

Routes Clyde.

In future, all ships destined for C.G.M. and O.B.M. Convoys are to be given alternative onward route to the Clyde. Should the mining situation prevent these ships proceeding to Milford Haven, they are to proceed independently to Clyde for inclusion in outward-bound Convoys.
(C. in C. W.A. 1737/18).

Sailing Orders. Halifax.

Pass to N.C.S.O.s. Sailing orders for all ships to Sydney (C.B.) should be amended to Halifax for orders.
(D.T.D. 1739/18 to A.I.G. 47).

6. M.V.'s.

Intend sailing 1800/19 3 merchant ships for Needles Channel, 3 merchant ships for Poole, escorted by anti Submarine trawlers VICTRIX and CORNELIAN e.t.a. Needles 0800/20 and Poole 0800/20.
(N.O.I.C. ? Liverpool 2156/18).

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

Coastal Convoys.

F.S. 90.	Sailed 0300/18 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0301/18).
F.N. 86.	S.S.LIGHTFOOT and No. 69 DORINGTON COURT from F.N. Convoy 86 were met, lost in moderate visibility about four miles N.E. of Number 5 Buoy at 0100, and were instructed to stay with F.S. Convoy 89 until F.N. Convoy 87 is met today, Saturday. (WALLACE, 0829/18 to C. in C. Nore).
F.N. 85.	M/L 169 sailed to join F.N. 85 for Methil. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0841/18).
O.B.C. 276.	(A) 0130/21. (B) ANTELOPE, ANTHONY, HEATHER, ORCHIS, ARAB, LADY MADELEINE. (C) 16. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0919/18).
F.S. 90.	13 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0948/18 to Admty).
F.N. 85.	Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber 0959/18).
F.N. 88.	518. Request you will sail GUILLEMOT for Southend as convenient p.m. today, Saturday to obtain routeing instructions to Sunderland. She is then to form additional escort for F.N. 88 as far as Sunderland. (C. in C. Nore 1018/18 to Cdre, Sheerness).
O.B.M. 276.	1740/19 ROSEMARY Ten. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1115/18).
C.W. 23.	C.W. 23, 1000/18 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1129/18).
F.S. 89.	Convoy FS 89 reported in Barrow Deep. 31 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1211/18).
E.N. 59. W.N. 72. FOWEY.	Act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 59 sailing at 1830/19. On meeting transfer to W.N. 72 due Cape Wrath 0300/21 and Duncansby 1330/21. Code word for E.N. 59 USAGE, and W.N. 72, CHITTY. (C. in C. Rosyth 1227/18).

/F.N. 87.....

War Diary. 18.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.N. 87.	1100/18 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1306/18).
C.W. 23.	Portsmouth night movements signal. Convoy C.W. 23 Southend to Spithead. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1403/18).
O.B. 275.	Sailed Aberdeen FLEUR DE LYS, MONTGOMERY, WILD SWAN and WITCH escorting O.B. 275. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1423/18).
F.N. 85. F.N. 86. F.S. 91. E.N. 58.	May Island 2000. 20 C. Buoy 2000. Sails 2300. Off Lossiemouth 2000. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1514/18).
F.N. 85.	My 1514. Delete SIKH and PUNJABI, returned to Scapa. F.N. 85 should reach May Island 1800 18/1. (C. in C. Rosyth 1658/18).
E.N. 57.	All 10 ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1531/18).
W.N. 70.	Arrived 1545/18 January. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1548/18).
O.B.O. 275.	0545/19/1. Escort H.M.S. GARDENIA. 12 Ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1557/18).
W.N. 71 (O)	Sailed W.N. 71 (O) 1500/18. 17 Ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1703/18).
O.B. 275.	Sailed 1655/18 9 knots 10 ships. 3 ships with kites. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1720/18) list and destinations (1721/18).
F.N. 88.	Intend to sail F.N. 88 (fast) escorts WALLACE and VIVIEN about 0930 tomorrow Sunday. F.N.87 (slow) escorts FLEETWOOD and COTSWOLD now anchored to Eastward of East Cant Buoy is to weigh and proceed immediately in rear of F.N. 88 probably about 1145. (C. in C. Nore, 1740/18)
O.B. 275.	My 1423/18/1. MONTGOMERY. WILD SWAN. and WITCH sailed to Londonderry to refuel then join O.B. 275. Sailed PERIWINKLE at 1759 to overtake O.B. 275.

/F.N. 87....

War Diary. 18.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.(contd).

Coastal Convoys.
(contd)

F.N. 87. Convoy message. My 1329/10. F.N. 87 postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1801/18).

F.S. 91. Sailed 2300/18. 24 ships, 11 ships known to be fitted for Kites.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 2331/18).

F.N. 85. Arrived during dark hours. Number of ships unknown.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 2332/18).

W.N. 70.
F.N. 85.
E.N. 58.
F.S. 91. Rosyth 18/1. Arrivals. WESTON, GAVOTTE and PIROUETTE with W.N. 70 includes BRITISH TOMMY from Aberdeen. WOOLSTON and WESTMINSTER with F.N. 85. Departures. Add to my 2325/17 PETUNIA to Tobermory with E.N. 58. VALOROUS and VORTIGERN with F.S. 91.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2337/18 to Admty etc).

Ocean Convoys.

O.G. 50. Sailed MALCOLM at 0830 for O.G. 50 MALCOLM will take over Senior Officer.
(Capt D. Londonderry 0905/18 to C. in C.W.A).

H.X. 103. Your 1941/17. My advance sailing telegram of 1601/11 list of 35 ships. For following unforeseen resons 30 Ships were unable to sail. Three slow convoy three loading delayed by weather. One crew not completed Nine repairs not completed. Four frozen windlasses Ten did not arrive due to weather. Two others not in the advance were able to sail.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1001/18 to Admty).

S.C. 20. Should if necessary be filled up to the limit 40 ships by a requisite number of HX ships of the slower type.
(D.T.D. 1629/18 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

Advance sailing telegram.
(S.C.N.O. Halifax 1131/18 to Admty).

/S.C. 19.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.1.1941. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.(contd).

Ocean Convoys. (contd).

S.C.19.	S.C. 19 meet. (C. in C. W.A. 1523/18 to Capt. D. Greenock, for ships of 4th Escort Group concerned).
H.X. 102.	Convoy Sailing Telegram as amended by Admiralty. (D.T.D. 1825/18 to C. in C. W.A.).
B.H.X. 102.	Your 2027/17 and my 1738/17. It is not considered desirable to alter route given in my 1943/17 unless the existing U/B dispositions have changed. Naval Commodore will embark at Bermuda for BHX 104 and ALAUNIA has been detailed as ocean escort. This convoy will include a large number of tankers with valuable cargoes. Future escort arrangements. (D.T.D. 2027/18 to C. in C. W.A.).

Troop Convoys.

Organisation.	Military convoys are to be organised and sailed as far as possible in the same way as Trade Convoys. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2028/18 to C. in C.W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BURKE (bombed 8/10)	Dover 18/1 Departure BURKE in tow of LADY BRASSEY at 0406 for Southend. (V.A. Dover 0414/18).
	Arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames 1512/18).
Hail heard by CRISPIN.	CRISPIN reported hearing hail as from Boat 2000/17 position 055° 40'N. 009° 24'W. He stopped for short time but saw and heard nothing. (WELLINGTON 0902/18).
DIMITRIS CHANDRIS	Returned from S.C.19 with heavy weather damage. (N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 0905/18).
CHITRAL	Re inprovement of engine room ventilation (F.O.C.N.P. 1142/18).
WILD SWAN.	2 Ratings lost overboard in heavy weather. (WILD SWAN 1850/18).
SS STANLEIGH.	STANLEIGH 5 miles south of South Rock Light Ship not under command drifting towards Dundrum Bay. (STANLEIGH 2230/18 G.M.T.).
	Following has been read. S.O.S. STANLEIGH anchored North of Dundrum Bay no immediate danger 2345/18. (Plymouth W/T 2348/18).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Convoy. Gibraltar 18/1 0950 French armed Trawler ASPIRANT-BRUN escorting merchant ships MONTAGNE, OUED-TIFLET, ROUBAISIEN West bound. (S.O.I., Gib., 1001/18, to Admty.)

ALSACE. My 1529/31/12. N.A. Washington's 1430/14/1. Following reported at Dakar Jan. 7th - 10th. Further confirmation is that ship proceeds to sea at intervals presumably for cable repair subsequently returning. (C.in C. S.A., 1215Z/18 to Admty.)

Dakar Intelligence. Following from Navy Department: from Dakar: 14/1 arrivals DALNY and GABON from Morocco. 15/1 sailed RAS EL and MAURICE DELMAS for Morocco former with 2,000 tons corn destined for France. 17/1 sailed MEDGERUSI CARAIBE latter for Morocco. Arrivals VILLE DE ROUEN from South and MEDIE II from Morocco.
(N.A. Washington, 1255/18, to Admty.)

ATALANTE. French Submarine ATALANTE escorted by a sloop and expected to pass through Straits between 1000 and 1200/19 presumably for Casablanca.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1616/18 to S. and A., North Atlantic).

SAN FRANCISCO (repatriees). Gibraltar departure 18/1, 2145, French steamship SAN FRANCISCO bound (?Marseilles) (S.O.I., Gib., 2230/18).

FIROUZ SINAIA. Reliable report received that tanker FIROUZ left Casablanca yesterday morning 8,000 tons gas oil consigned BAER ?Marseilles.
(2) S.S. SINAIA left Casablanca for Dakar with native troops and field guns.
(3) There is movement of troops from Dakar southwards.
(Consul-General, Tangier, 2245/18, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Enemy Unit.

Mean of bearings obtained on 5595 Kcs. at 0458/18 G.M.T. was:-
Lands End 225/1
Text RR RR DDK XDW ORT ING OYJ MMR Z.
(D.D.I.C. 0758/18, to C.in C's and F.O.C.N.A.)

My 0758/18. Add Halifax 102/2. Bearings indicate a German unit near 31° N. 26° W. (D.D.I.C. 1801/18).

D/F Bearings indicate German Units near 031° N. 026° W. at 0800/18.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2058/18 to S. and A. N. Atlantic).

CAMITO.

CAMITO escorted by DUNCAN until 1900/19 sails 1800 (route). (F.O.C.N.A. 1628/18).

Cancel my 1628/18. (F.O.C.N.A. 2000/18).

Gibraltar 18/1 1800 departure CAMITO for P 3 and Q 3. (S.O.I., Gib., 1804/18).

OTUS
Azores

OTUS left Gibraltar for Azores Patrol 1830/17 and has been ordered not to approach within 25 miles of Ponta Delgada until after 0001/22.
Make brief situation report to Captain(S)8 repeated F.O.(S) when 100 miles clear of patrol area on passage to U.K.
(Capt. S.8, 0906/18, to OLYMPUS).

MIRROR
Cable
Operation.

Gibraltar departure 18/1 1300 cable vessel MIRROR escorted by ARCTIC RANGER for cable operation near Tangier and Cadiz.
(S.O.I. Gib., 1302/18).

ARK ROYAL.

Your 1106/14 not to ARK ROYAL and 2255/16. Is there any confirmation in ARK ROYAL of 250 lb. G.P. bomb failures in attacks referred to in above signals?
(S S.L. 1420/18 to S.O. Force H).

PHOEBE.

Intend to sail PHOEBE for Scapa at 0800Z-one 19/1 (route). (F.O.C.N.A. 1802/18)

Admty. 1337/15 and 1802/18. Submit for consideration that 20% of PHOEBE's 5.25 ammunition be landed before ship sails, for retention at base.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2146/18 to Admty.)

/ Report of ship from Casablanca to Bordeaux. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.1.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Report of ship from Casablanca to Bordeaux.

Your 1455/18. (Sent by War Registry at request of D.E.W.D. request for former name of ST. HELOISE referred to in F.O.C.N.A's 2209/16). Further enquiry from Tangier gives name as ex-German TANNENKAWA. No trace of such vessel but this may refer to French SAINT LOVASE ex German TRIPOLS last heard of at Casablanca.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1822/18 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

EUMAEUS
Personnel.

Admiralty request that arrangements be made for naval personnel ex EUMAEUS landed at Freetown to be accommodated in vessels of W.S.5B bound for Singapore i.e. EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA and EMPRESS OF JAPAN. Request report.
(D.S.T. 0127/18, to S.N.O. Freetown).

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE
ISIS
ENCOUNTER

Adty's 1729/17. FURIOUS insufficient fuel. Intend to proceed Gibraltar with NEPTUNE, ISIS, ENCOUNTER via route ordered for ISIS in RAMILLIES 1815N/15 (E.T.A.). After fuelling FURIOUS and NEPTUNE can proceed Clyde at (speed). My 1500/18/12 (re oil fuel consumption). (FURIOUS, 0930/18).

Following is repetition of my 1017/18. Your ϕ 1750/17. No anti-submarine escort will be available until 24/1 unless ISIS and ENCOUNTER return to Freetown leaving FURIOUS to-day 18/1. (C.in C. S.A., 1425/18, to Admty.)
ϕ Most Secret.

Your 1425/18 and 1721/18.
ISIS and ENCOUNTER must continue as arranged. Delay in sailing of ships mentioned in my 1750/17 must be accepted.
(D.O.D.(F) 2211/18 to C.in C. S.A.)

VIDETTE
W.S.5B.

Departure 0639/18 VIDETTE to R.V. with convoy W.S.5B (date).
(S.O.I. Freetown, 0941N/18 to Admiralty, repeated AUSTRALIA, EMERALD.).

"Shrapnel" Force.

Your 2201/16. Request I may be informed if return of "SHRAPNEL" is to include whole of personnel and equipment brought out including landing craft, tentage and transports?
(C.in C. S.A. 1005/18 to Admty.)

/ Your 1005/18 ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Your 1005/18 and Adty. 1750/17.
Transports should return with landing craft and equipment and stores shown as being on board in the maintenance project for the force.
(D.O.D.(F) 2000/18 to C.in C. S.A.)

BLACKHEATH DALFONN. — Overdue shipping. BLACK HEATH DALFONN due Capetown 14/1 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1015/18).

Shipping 20° N. — Southbound Ships crossing 20° N. MOUNTPARK for Plate, CITY OF BATH for Cape. (Speed; Approximate Noon Position 19/1). (Routes). (D.T.D. 1149/18 to S.A. Station).

ROWALLAN CASTLE — Your 1742/17. ROWALLAN CASTLE replies yes. Position "I" is position on circumference 150 miles Malin Head circle. Ship ordered to proceed direct to North Channel at 055° 37' N. 007° 00' W. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1307/18, to Admty.)

Disposition of all ships in S.A. Command. — At 1200/18. (C.in C. S.A. 1431/18).

Troop Transport. — My 2223/13 and 1216/17. Requirement for personnel has now risen. (Details and asking for an interim reply). (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1656/18 to Admty.) Reply (D. of S.T. 2246/18) See Operations Volume.

Flying boat base at Freetown. — Recommending that work on Fura Bay be discontinued and work begun on Bunce River site (W/C Martin Freetown 1719/18) Discontinue work on Fura Bay. Bunce River site approved (Air Min. 1702/19).

Lights. — Your 1709M/17 (Reports of lights that might have been enemy submarine). It is suggested that A.M.S.I. 20 and 224 cover the situation described. Do you concur? (D.T.D. 1737/18 to C.in C. S.A.).

Freetown, bunkers. — Following 8 ships routed to Capetown have put into Freetown for bunkers during January.
KUMAKUS, similarly routed, was torpedoed while approaching Freetown.
It is essential that C.in C. S.A. should be aware of forthcoming arrivals at Freetown.
When routeing ships to the Cape N.C.S.O's are to ensure that Masters are satisfied they have sufficient bunkers to reach their destination. (D.T.D. 1747/18 to N.C.S.O's.).

/ Enemy Unit. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Enemy Unit. — Intercept. D/F bearings indicate German ship within 100 miles of 031° N. 025° W. at 0428Z/18. Reliability 60%. Considered more likely to be surface vessel than U boat. (C.in C. S.A. 1921/18 to FURIOUS, NEPTUNE)

Raider Report. BRITISH UNION — RRRR 26.34 N., 30.58 W. BRITISH UNION shelled. (BRITISH UNION, No T.O.O./18 recd. 2245/18).

BRITISH UNION was attacked at 2022/18 in 27.01 N., 29.54 W., gun flash and searchlight being seen from ARAWA. (See ARAWA, 0315Z/19 etc.) (D.S., 502).

My 1609/15 (Potential raiders, see Home Commands, Enemy Intelligence) is being passed to you for information. (H.W.R. 2026/18 to R.A.S.A.D.)

W.S.6. — Your 1917/24/12. Water requirements for W.S.6, re supply and date. (D. of S.T. 2012/18 to C.in C. S.A.).

CUMBERLAND NEWCASTLE — CUMBERLAND will be in position 029° S. 042° W. at 0800Z/20 steering 240° 10 knots. R/V with me during daylight/20. (R.A.S.A.D., 2315Z/18, to NEWCASTLE).

FORMIDABLE. — Your 0746Z/17. FORMIDABLE now carrying out operations in South Atlantic. Dates. Simonstown and Aden. (C.in C. S.A., 2326B/17 to C.in C. E.I.)

Mediterranean.

Enemy Intelligence, possible invasion of Tunisia and France. — Following from N.A. Washington from Navy Department; U.S. Naval Attache Rome reports following information obtained from source in Rome.
Navy Department states intelligence from this anonymous source has proved reliable in the past: Germany and Italy are intending to terminate armistice with France and attack Tunisia and France. 50,000 German and Italian troops including motorised units now in Sicily will invade Tunisia with ultimate intention of supporting Graziani. Plan includes as a first stage operations by German Air Forces from Sicily in conjunction with Italian Fleet to attack Bizerta and other ports in Tunisia with object of forming bridge heads for follow-on-troops.

/ Date given ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy Intelligence, possible invasion of Tunisia and France. (Contd.)

Date given for commencement of these operations is between 20/1 and 23/1. (Ends).
This information is being considered here. Have you any confirmatory evidence? (D.N.I. 0041/18 to S.O.I. Malta, C.O.I.C. Alexandria).

Your 0041/18 to S.O.(I) Malta. I have no confirmatory evidence.
(2) German Air Squadron in Sicily have so far been employed in 3 large scale attacks the first against Fleet and next 2 against Malta. In each attack at least 60 aircraft have taken part, so that whole force believed to be in Sicily has probably been engaged. In these attacks they have lost between 20 and 30 aircraft with more damaged. To produce decisive results at Malta attack must be continued on present scale with commensurate loss, which would militate against air attack on Tunis. (3) Palermo and Messina were last reconnoitred 14/1 and 10/1 respectively. There were then normal numbers of merchant vessels present. The expedition might start from Naples where there are many suitable vessels laid up and embarkation would be unnoticed by air reconnaissance.
(4) If presence of large German forces in Sicily or Southern Italy is confirmed consider the possibility of an invasion of Malta instead of Tunis cannot be ruled out. (V.A. Malta, 2021/18).

German W/T.

Middle East informs us German Air W/T Stations detected in Libya. Position uncertain. Details. No indication at present that this concerns your present operation. (Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 0926/18, to V.A.L.F.)

Recognition signals.

Following will be in force for use between British and Greek Naval forces. (C.in C. Med. 1059/18).

2200/17 to 0030/18 Raid on Suez Canal.

Two enemy planes flew along axis of Canal dropping bombs at Ismailia Ferry, Kantara, and Khassab 24 and 16. Army lorries and ferry machine gunned. Road and Sweet Water Canal temporarily obstructed near Kantara.
One U X B in canal bank at Kantara.
One U X B West of railway at Khassab 16.
No other damage nor casualties.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1246/18).

/ German merchant vessels in Adriatic. .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

German merchant vessels in Adriatic.

(a) Certain important changes in the distribution of German Merchant Vessels in the Adriatic and particularly at Trieste have taken place.
(b) Number on 4/4/40 was between 25 and 29.
(c) On Dec. 5th source B two since independently confirmed stated that there were twenty German Merchant Vessels in Trieste, of which S.S. ANKARA, REICHENFELS and one name unknown had been loaded with stores for Albania. Remaining vessels had been equipped as transports and made ready for sea.
(d) On Dec. 15th source two reported 9 German Merchant Vessels left Trieste for unknown destination. Later sailings have been reported, and number of vessels in Trieste on 1/1 is given by two sources of proved reliability as five.
(N.A. Belgrade 1245/18. NOTE. Passed to C.in C. Mediterranean.).

Lorries for Greece.

Your 1903/9 to Admiralty etc.
War Office 96174 Cypher (M.I.L.) 9/1 to British Military Mission explains present position regarding supply of lorries.
Up to 300 Italian lorries are being sent from Middle East, and negotiations are in progress with a view to obtaining 1000 lorries by barter from Syria.
Further plans. Your suggestion of shipping lorries on coal ships from U.K. is impracticable.
(I.D.C. 1328/18 to N.A. Athens).

ILLUSTRIOUS.

No damage etc. V.A. Malta 1251/18, 1257/18. See Mediterranean Volume.

Air Report, Derna bombed, Tobruk bombed, Rhodes bombed.

Operational Summary No. 222 up to 1200 hours 18/1/41.
Para. 1 Egypt. Day 16/1. 7 Blenheims bombed Derna Barracks, results unobserved. Night 16/17, 2 Wellingtons bombed military buildings at Tobruk. 1 Wellington bombed Maritz Aerodrome, Rhodes, bad weather prevented the others locating the objective.

Tel Aviv Raid.

Para 4. Palestine. Night 17/18 Jan. 1 unidentified enemy aircraft dropped 4 bombs near Aqir aerodrome, and a 5th 5 miles east Tel Aviv no damage reported.
(M.A. R.A.F. M.E., 1252/18).

22nd A/S Group arrived: most welcome. Request consideration be given to increasing complement of each ship and send a small pool of spare ratings.
(C.in C. Med. 1509/18 to C.in C. S.A., N.O.i/c Simonstown).

/ Oerlikons, supply. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Oerlikons, Supply.	Your 0913/18. We only have about 100 Oerlikons all of which in service in vessels operating in narrow waters under constant threat of air attack. A supply will be sent out to you when guns start to be obtained from new manufacture. Meanwhile more .303 inch weapons, Holman projectors and P.A.C.'s are being sent. (D.T.S.D. 1701/18, to C.in C. Med.)
Seaward Defence of Tobruk.	Consider early decision is required on extent to which Tobruk is to be established as a defended port with coast complement of guns and eventual extended defence fortress. (C.in C. Med. 1705/18 to C.in C. M.E.)
Sicilian Aerodromes.	Suggestions re attack. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.
Malta Defence.	Re use of 20 barrel U.P. wire barrage against dive bombers. (D.T.S.D. 1756/18 to C.in C. Med.)
Accoustic Mines.	Possible use by enemy aircraft. Precautions and sweeping arrangements. (D.M.S., 1818/18 to C.in C. Med.).
Air Attack on Malta.	1315 to 1550, by about 80 JU.87's and 88's covered by fighters. Details of damage. (H.Q. R.A.F., Med., to Air Ministry, 1825/18). See Mediterranean Volume.
FORMIDABLE.	C.in C. Med. 1109/18. See Mediterranean Volume.
W.S.5B.	CAPETOWN CASTLE and ARUNDEL CASTLE both in W.S.5B have on board 2 and 1 M.L.C. respectively. These can be handled by ships' own derricks. (D. of S.T. 2007/18 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).
Convoy A.N.	Arrived Piraeus 2000/18. (N.C.S.O. Athens 2300/18.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Force T.	Your 1303/17 (further movements of Force T) Concur. (C.in C. E.I., 0800Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
U.S.S.	Expected dates at Aden and Suez (C.in C. E.I., 0800/18).
Convoys, Red Sea, protection.	Admty. 1406/10. Considered small risk to unescorted ships north of about 19° N. risk expected to become considerable. Suggestions re B.N. and B.N.P. convoys, B.S. and B.S.P. convoys and W.S. and U.S. convoys. (C.in C. E.I., 1316Z/18 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.
B.N.13, CORLOCK	My 0910/17 (Convoy sailing telegram) delete CORLOCK. Ship returned to Aden with engine defect. (N.C.S.O. Aden 0835Z/18).
FORMIDABLE.	Re escort. (C.in C. Med. 1109/18 to C.in C. E.I.) See Mediterranean Volume.
Air Attacks, Arras, Hargeisa.	Daily operation summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 18/1. Armed photographic reccos. I.E.A. 2 Blenheims. 1000 pounds bombs each Assab and Hargeisa Convoy escorts 3 Blenheims. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1709/18).
HELLAS	Your 0959/16, pass to Greek Consul. (Begins). HELLAS requisitioned, instruct Captain proceed Basra load barley for Greece. Sinopoulos, Greek Minister, Chairman Greek Shipping Committee. (Ends). (D.T.D. 1744/18 to N.C.S.O. Colombo).
Ship at Mogadiscio moved to Merka.	My 2030/17. (Large cargo ship sighted at Mogadiscio). Air reconnaissance 18/1 showed ship had moved to Merka. Anticipate S.A.A.F. will bomb her 19/1. (C.in C. E.I. 1924Z/18 to Admty.)
Communications.	Your 1212/24/12/40. Cable and Wireless anxious to provide information required but loath to increase traffic on already congested cable routes if it can be avoided. Instructions to managers at Aden and Colombo. (Head of M. 2904/18 to C.in C. E.I.).

/ HIGHLAND PRINCESS .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

HIGHLAND PRINCESS
HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN (W.S.5B).

To assist meat situation in U.K. very desirable that HIGHLAND PRINCESS and HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN in convoy W.S.5B should turn round at Durban and proceed forthwith to South America.
P.S.T.O. India and P.S.T.O. Egypt are requested to report whether shipping can be provided for onward conveyance from Durban. (D.S.T., 2247/18, to P.S.T.O's)

China.

My 0917Z/18. Agreement concluded with CIERUAN which includes permission for one named British ship to be used in Indo China trade without restriction on number of voyages.
Governor of Hong Kong is requested to consider whether nomination of a ship trading from Hong Kong is desired and if so suggest name.
(C.in C. China, 0756Z/18, to Admty.).

Trade agreement with Indo China.

Text (C.in C. China 0946Z/18) Note. Full telegram inserted in Operations Volume only.

Thailand Indo China.

Decoux's reply to Adty. 1207/11 (C.in C. China 0814Z/18).

French troops from Dibouti for Indo China.

My 0756/18 and 0804/18. French ask British Government to reconsider previous decision and permit five battalions of Senegalese troops to be transported from Djibouti to Indo China. Approval is now recommended. C.in C. Far East concurs. (C.in C. China 0842/18).

French imports, gunny bags.

Ref. Clause XI of agreement French desire permission to import in addition sufficient gunny bags to provide for ?import of rice to unoccupied France up to an estimated total of 200,000 tons per annum. They were informed that this must be referred to London. They state assurance would be given that rice would be consumed exclusively in unoccupied France. (C.in C. China, 0957Z/18 to Adty.)

Indo-China Trade.

My 1946/14. Following from F.O. (Examination of Point 8 in Haiphong telegram No.12 of 12/1.) (D.T.D. 2006/18 to C.in C. China and Govr., Straits Settlements).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

DIMITRIOS CHANDRIS. — Returned from S.C.19 heavy weather damage. (N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 0905/18).

U.S. Bases. — My 1201/10. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1231/18 to Admty.)

PORT TOWNSVILLE grounding. — Your 1747/16. PORT TOWNSVILLE. Check and repeat to Admiralty position "E" Admiralty message 1234/25/11. Confirm SPEEDS "A" and "B". (D.T.D. 1348/18 to N.C.S.O. Kingston).

New Zealand.

THORSHAV BENALBANACH — Have you news of THORSHAV and BENALBANACH due Wellington and Picton respectively? (D.T.D. 1240/18 to N.Z.N.B.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ARKADIA.	Departure ARKADIA for Russian Port in Ballast. (VARNA 1128/18).
TANNER KAWA (?)) TRIFELS.)	See North Atlantic 1822/18.
SULLBERG.	1663 tons at Cartagena since Sept., 1939 expected soon at Genoa with cargo of iron pyrites (D.S. 502).
GALILEA.	1927 tons left Valencia p.m./18 for Marseilles (D.S. 502).
ATLAS.	Valencia reports sailing tonight from Gandia to Marseilles. (F.O.C.N.A, to URSULA, 1958/18).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MAURO.	Italian MAURO expected time of arrival Barcelona Jan. 18th or 19th. (F.O.C.N.A. 0410/18 to URSULA).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

Brazilian Chief of Naval Staff informs me interception of MENDOZA was observed by Brazilian Naval aircraft which reports incident took place five miles East of Itapocaroya.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1435/18 to Admty).

MENDOZA boarded 0855Z/18 in position 024 degrees 16.5 miles from Punta Das Cabecudas light. Captain refused to navigate ship. Reinforcing steaming party outside 50 miles limit. ASTURIAS in company pending further order. My 1530Z/18 position 26° 41' south 47° 08' West. Routed thence through following positions to Freetown. ASTURIAS now unable to supply a steaming party for another ship.
(ASTURIAS, 1530Z/18 to R.A.S.A.D).

MENDOZA.
Armed guard
ASTURIAS
DORSETSHIRE.

C. in C. Sth. Atlantic 1749/17 ASTURIAS 1530/18 ASTURIAS cannot spare large armed guard necessary to take MENDOZA to Freetown as there is little chance of their return for a long time. Suggest DORSETSHIRE should rendezvous with ASTURIAS and MENDOZA and replace ASTURIAS armed guard subsequently covering MENDOZA on passage to Freetown. If you approve, request you issue necessary instructions. Intend to leave (corrupt group) P.M./19 Return to Plate with (? Cruiser accompanying?) ASTURIAS proceeding to Rio De Janeiro Area for trade protection and interception of other French Ships porceeding north from Plate.
(Cdre, S.A.D. 2159/18 to C. in C. S.A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

OROPESA
(torpedoed 16/1)

My 1809/17. Cancel position TENACITY and substitue 056° 30'N. 014° 06'W. at 0001/18.
(C. in C. W.A. 0025/18 to WOLVERINE).

Boat with survivors OROPESA may be in approximate position 055° 40'N., 009° 24'W.
(C. in C. W.A. 1007/18 to ships north of 53°N.).

What is my position?
(WESTCOTT, 1420/18 to Admty).

Cancel my 1420/18.
(WESTCOTT, 1620/18).

Arrived WESTCOTT with survivors from OROPESA.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1831/18 to Admty).

NEMEA.

Greek, 5101 tons. Proceed forthwith to assistance of NEMEA in position 052° 57'N. 023° 58'W. at 1410/17. Ship torpedoed at 2100/15 in No. 2 hold and is believed to be salvable.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0210/18 toRESTIVE);

If not in contact proceed to stand by NEMEA torpedoed and abandoned. Position at 1100/17 052° 57'N. 023° 58'W. Tug RESTIVE has beensent to tow and should arrive after dark/19.
(C. in C. W.A. 1253/18 to DELPHINIUM).

ST AL

ALMEDA STAR
(torpedoed 17/1)

ST ALBANS has had to abandon search for ALMEDA STAR to refuel and LEGION was deflected to another vessel. You are to continue search for ALMEDA STAR or survivors until further orders.
(C. in C. W.A. 1653/18 to BEAGEE, BRILLIANT).

/ALMEDA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.
(contd).

ALMEDA STAR was independently routed, with 177 Fleet Air Arm personnel for Trinidad (D.O.R. 18/1).

Am escorting JAMAICA PLANTER clear of danger zone. Have detached BRILLIANT to comply with your 1653. My position course and speed are 058° 23'N. 012° 34'W. 085° 10.
(BEAGLE, 1845/18 to C. in C. W.A.).

S/M's Reported.

1517. Estimated one German U-boat about 047° North 007° West bound for Lorient.
(Submarines on patrol Area B. 1517/18).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Losses of Independently-routed Ships

The losses of independently routed ships from enemy air attack have increased to a serious extent since the speed of ships thus routed was reduced from 15 to 13 knots on 15/11. C. in C., W.A., proposes that 15 knots be reintroduced as the minimum speed of independently routed ships He also considers the system of routeing to be at fault; the policy of spreading out the routes makes it difficult to avoid the possibility of meeting U-Boats, and the fact that they are routed away from the normal convoy tracks makes it very difficult to find ships after being hit and rules out any chance of successful counter attack. But the most serious aspects are the effect on the morale of the Merchant Navy due to delays and frequent failures in rendering effective assistance and the lack of counter action. The latter also enhances the morale of the enemy. C. in C., W.A., considers the routes should be near convoy tracks.

Operation P Y A

This operation was carried out tonight.

Tyne Blocked

The Tyne was blocked from 0640 to 1437 today by the bow wires of the blockship MALDA parting in a gale and allowing the ship to swing across the river.

Marine Casualties

Several ships are in trouble from the weather.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Penalty Areas

The Admiralty have approved of the proposal that submarines in certain areas may be bombed irrespective of any recognition signals they may make. These areas will be known as penalty areas.

Air Operations Curtailed by Weather.

On account of bad weather Bomber Command carried out no operations last night or today. The number of routine and special patrols flown by Coastal Command today was limited for the same reason.

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on Shipping

SS BONNINGTON COURT was bombed and sunk near the Sunk Light Vessel this afternoon, whilst proceeding to join Convoy F.N. 88 Earlier in the day SS ZERO in this convoy was slightly damaged and proceeded independently to the Tyne. SS CORDUFF was attacked this morning off Hearty Knoll Buoy. Other attacks, about which no details are reported were on SS KAPETAN STRATIS in the S.W. Approaches and WILLIAM H. DANIELS off the Sunk Light Vessel. EGRET and Convoy F.S. 90 were attacked this morning East of Lowestoft, but no damage was caused.

Mining

Operation B.S. 50

TEVIOT BANK and IMPULSIVE laid mines today in the East Coast Barrier.

The small Dutch ship DIANA was mined and sunk in the Bristol Channel this afternoon and certain small ports were closed.

Mines were detonated off Liverpool, Sheerness and Milford Haven.

The Humber is closed.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

MENDOZA

DORSETSHIRE has been ordered to R.V. with ASTURIAS and MENDOZA and relieve the armed guard, and presumably the steaming party which ASTURIAS placed on board outside the 50 mile limit from Brazil, MENDOZA having refused to proceed to Freetown The Complement of ASTURIAS suffices to provide only one steaming party at a time. MENDOZA is to call at Ascension for orders before proceeding to Freetown.

South Atlantic

Raiders

ARAWA has been ordered by C. in C., S.A. to search the area to W.S.W. and South of the position, 700 miles south of the Azores, where BRITISH UNION was sunk yesterday by a raider.

Attack on Whale Factory Ships

The whale catcher THORIS reports on arrival at Falkland Islands, that it is believed the whale factory ship OLE WEGGER and transport SOGLIMT have been sunk by a raider in 59° S., 3° or 4° W approx. Further details became known later. The date of sinking or capture is given as 14/1, and it is thought that 4 catchers which were alongside OLE WEGGER were also captured. D/F bearings today indicate a surface unit in approx. 57° S., 11° W., near the area of operations of the whale factory ships. QUEEN OF BERMUDA has been ordered to investigate. The raider is reported to be a motor vessel over 10,000 tons, apparently the latest type of passenger ship.

/DALFOIN.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic-Contd.

DALFONN Engages U-Boat with Decoy

The Norwegian tanker DALFONN, which had lost touch with her convoy in bad weather reports that on 18/12 she engaged with her gun a U-Boat for which a large armed tanker flying Dutch colours was apparently ~~escorting~~ acting as a decoy. The DALFONN escaped unscathed. An unknown British freighter 10 miles away also saw and engaged the U-Boat.

Convoy S.L. 63

Owing to the length of route of convoy S.L. 63 CANTON will be unable to return to Freetown without proceeding to the U.K.

Mediterranean

Air Raids on Malta

There were two more heavy air raids on Malta in daylight today, by a very large number of dive bombers. ILLUSTRIOUS was hit again and DECOY and BERYL were damaged. Damage was caused in the Dockyard and in the City. Heavy toll was taken of the raiders, and H.Q., R.A.F., Malta reports that the raids can be withstood and that the enemy's morale is visibly affected by their losses.

Operations In Libya

C. in C., Med. anticipates rather greater difficulty in clearing and occupying Tobruk harbour than was the case at Bardia owing to mines and sabotage and obstruction reported now in progress. No mines were found off Bardia. Army supplies to be ferried will be on a still larger scale and water may be unobtainable ashore. The Bardia water system is efficient to supply Sollum and Bardia; these two places must be maintained as supply bases until Tobruk is firmly established. Further operations against Tobruk are held up by the weather.

S.S. CLAN CUMMING torpedoed.

C.in C. Med. reports that S.S. CLAN CUMMING, which left Piraeus in Convoy "Excess", was "submarined" off San Georgio and is reported to have returned to Piraeus.

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Unrestricted Bombing of S/M's in certain Areas.

Your 1744/17. Approved. (D.O.D. H. 1257/19.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/19. (D.C. 1131/19 and 1735/19.)
At 2330/19. (D.C. 2350/19.)

Scapa A/A Defences.

Adty. 1131/14/12. The 16 Bofors promised for delivery 8 in December and 8 in January have not yet arrived nor has Commander Orkneys and Shetlands defences received any information of their despatch. Their provision is a matter of extreme urgency. Request steps be taken to expedite delivery and that I may be informed when they will be sent. (A.C.O.S. 1637/19 to A.A. Command.)

Movements.

HESPERUS.

Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1001/19.)

J3968.

Intend sailing J3968 for Rosyth escorted by AURORA and four destroyers at 1600/21 speed of advance 15 knots approximately. F.C. gun trials will be carried out between Islay and Barra Head AM/22, and between Kinnaird Head and May Island a.m. and p.m./23. E.T.A. Inchkeith 1700/23. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1148/19.)

My 1732/18, para. 2. In view of weather, Destroyers are to proceed independently not later than 1030/20. (C. in C. H.F. 1633/19 to R.A.D. AURORA.)

FURIOUS }
NEPTUNE }

My 1559/18. Position K should read 55° 19' N. 6°W.(C. in C. W.A. 1213/19 to FURIOUS.)

/JACKAL.....

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

JACKAL HESPERUS	R/V. with me in 53° 40'N. 16°30'W. at 0945/21. (JACKAL 0859/19 to HESPERUS.) Your 1208 and my 0859. My route to R/V. Join me as convenient. (JACKAL 1521/19 to HESPERUS.) My 1623/19. Proceed Londonderry, complete with fuel and join JACKAL. (C. in C. W.A. 2123/19 to HESPERUS)
Northern Patrol.	Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1546/19.)
INTREPID.	Cancel my 1114/18. Intend INTREPID leave Humber PM/20 to R/V as by Adty. 1032/16. (Capt. D.20. 1700/19 to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations.

MINNIE DE LARRINAGA.	Sailed Tilbury 1040 for Southend in tow of Tugs LADY BRASSEY, ARCADIA, WATERCOCK. My 1805/15 refers. (F.O.I.C. London 1045/19 to C. in C. Nore.)
Operation SPECIMEN.	Request consideration may be given to providing H.M.S. PEGASUS with a duplicate A/S vessel aerial system to provide an A/S vessel look out on after bearings. (C. in C. W.A. 1203/19 to Adty.)
Operation PYA.	With M/L's 106 and 110. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1701/19 to SNAPDRAGON.)

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

SEALION)
INTREPID)

Intend sail at 0900/21 for A/S Exercise at 1000. Route of SEALION on completion for Patrol Pro Havet to Stadlandet. (S.6. 1333/19.)

Positions.

For 24 hours after 0800/20. (F.O.S. 1722/19.)

OLYMPUS.

Orders for leaving Azores Patrol 21/1 for Portsmouth. Route, etc. (F.O.S. 1751/19.)

SEVERN.

You may sight KING GEORGE V. westbound on about 21/1. (A.C.N.S.H. 1902/19 to SEVERN.)

Estimated U-Boat Disposition.

One Italian in Bay of Biscay bound for Gironde. Between 6° and 8° West. (F.O.S. 1517/19 to S/M's Area B.)

British Air Activity.

FURIOUS.

My 1729/17. Only A/C now in FURIOUS fit for operation are 2 Skuas which are inadequate to provide either Air A/S or Fighter protection. (D.N.A.D. 0941/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols.

Patrol FAIR cancelled today. No additional Patrols ordered. (C. in C. Rosyth 0950/19.) Following will be flown tomorrow, weather permitting. STAB, BERT, TROT, STAND. (C. in C. Rosyth 1420/19.)

/804 Squadron.

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

804 Squadron. — Your 2210/16. Request Squadron may cease operating as from Midnight31/1, and then transfer to R.N. Air Station, Yeovilton. (5th S.L. 1232/19 to Air Ministry.)

Lorient. — Ap.773/19/1. 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight U-Boats in Naval Dockyard at Lorient. (H.Q.C.C. 1237/19 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Brest. — A.P. 772/19/1. 55 and 59 Sqdns. to attack tonight Cruiser in dry-dock at Brest. Alternative Target, U-Boats at Brest which are located as follows. (H.Q.C.C. 1238/19 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Orkneys & Shetlands A/S Air Watch. — C. in C. H.F. 2229/18. I do not wish to curtail our watch on the Norwegian Coast or our anti-invasion patrols. I will however keep a careful watch on the areas referred to in para. 3 of the above signal when aircraft are available. (Patrol FAIR is at present carried out daily. (A.O.C. in C. H.Q.C.C. 1700/19 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

BURKE. — (H/S. Trawler. Bombed 8/10/40). Arrived Tilbury 1830 in tow of LADY BRASSEY. (F.O.I.C. London 0800/19 to V.A. Dover.)

Swansea. — Details of Damage in Air-Raid 17/18. No Naval casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1000/19.)

Convoy F.S.90. — A/C. bombing. (EGRET 1022/19) One A/C. My position 52° 30' N. 2° E. (EGRET 1025/19.) 4 Bombs.No. damage.(EGRET 1048/19.)One Junkers 88 circling Convoy in 52° 22' N. 2° 1' E. (EGRET 1249/19 and 1251/19.)

/KAPETAN STRATIS.....

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. Contd.

KAPETAN STRATIS. — Machine-gunned in 50° 28' N. 17° W. (CAPATAN STRATIS 1035/19.)

WILLIAM H. DANIELS. — (British, 1764 Tons.) Bombed off Sunk Light Vessel (N. Foreland 1057/19.)

CORDUFF. — (British, 2345 Tons.) Attacked by A/C off Hearty Knoll Buoy. (Burnham Radio 1137/19.)

Convoy F.N.88. — My 1233. (?1133) M.E.110. No Bombs, no hits. (WALLACE 1147/19.) Fighters have left to assist. (C. in C. Nore 1157/19.) A/C bombing in 51° 32'N. 1° 3' E.(WALLACE 1233/19.)One A/C bombing in 51° 50' N. 1° 35' E. (WALLACE 1510/19.)

BONNINGTON COURT. Sunk. — DORINGTON COURT bombed and sunk in 275° 9½ cables from Sunk Light Vessel. (WALLACE 1531/19 to C. in C. Nore.) 35 survivors taken to Harwich by SHEARWATER. 2 Engineers believed missing. Fore part of ship above water and on fire. Fighters believed to have been near at time, but much low cloud. (C. in C. Nore 1801/19 to Adty.)

Mining.

Milford Haven. — Port open except to I.C.E. Ships and subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0743/19.) 2 Ground Mines self-detonated in 75° 12½ cables and 135° 1 mile from St. Ann's Head respectively. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1851/19 to Adty.)

A/C Minelaying Sheerness Area. — For tonight (H.Q.C.C. 1239/19.) Red Mine detonated by LL.Tugs at 1040 in 250° West Shoebury Buoy 5 cables. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1446/19.)

Humber. — Closed. Expect re-open 1200/20.(F.O. Humber 1614/19.

/Bristol.....

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Bristol Channel. — Ships are not to be sailed to or from Watchet or ports in the River Parratt until further orders. (P.O.I.C. Cardiff 1647/19.)

DIANA sunk. — DIANA (Dutch, 812 Tons.) Mined and sunk in 51° 18' N. 5° 10' W. (P.O.I.C. Cardiff 1657/19 to Adty.)

Liverpool. — Mine/ Report to 1800/19. One Mine detonated by LL. sweep 288° 2 miles Bar Light Vessel; and 2 by Vessels in 275° 4 cables and 270° 2 cables from Bar Light Vessel, respectively. (P.O.I.C. Liverpool 1846/19.)

S.S. ROY. (Marine Casualty 11/1.) — Was damaged by 3 external explosions believed to have been caused by mine 11/1 off Humber. Engines were disabled and she was towed into Hull next day. (D.S.502.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest. — Air R/C at 1200/19. (P.I.U. St. Eval 1525/19.)

Norwegian Coast and Ports. — Information from Sources. (N.A. Stockholm 1635/18. to D.N.I.)

Cherbourg. — Shipping and Shore Activity seen at 1525/19. (P.R.U. Benson 2205/19.)

Reported plan of invasion. — M.I.C.E. 0835/19.)

Miscellaneous.

Tyne Entrance blocked. — By s.s. MALDA.

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Reporting of Aircraft.

The attention of Masters of ships sailing in Convoy should be drawn to the signification of the signal "six" in "Consigs", and they should be informed of the desirability of making this signal by every available visual means when enemy aircraft are sighted. (D.T.D. 0045/19, to A.I.G. 47.)

Routes.

A.M. 1340/29/10 and 1236/7/1 inward bound ships proceeding south through the Minches are to cross parallel of 58° 15' N in the Minches at 0600 B.S.T. Instructions as to crossing the arc of a circle with radius of 150 miles from Malin Head do not apply, to such ships. (D.T.D. 1725/19 to C. in C. A. & W.I. C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A., N.S.H.Q, Ottawa C.O.A.C. Halifax.

Losses of independently routed ships from U-boat attack.

Losses of independently routed ships from U-boat attack, have increased to a serious extent since the speed of ships routed independently was reduced from fifteen knots to thirteen knots on the 15/11.
The losses are as follows:-
October - nil.
November- 1.
December- 5.(included 1 A.M.C.)
January - 5. Up to 18th.
2. The increase in losses is attributed to:- (A) The reduction in minimum speed and the consequent increase in number of independently routed ships.
(B) The system of routing.
3. The policy of spreading out the routes makes it difficult to avoid the possibili of meeting U-boats, and the fact that the are routed away from the normal convoy tracks makes it very difficult to find them after being hit and rules out any chance of a successful counter attack. Considerable escort time is lost in ships having to be sent to their assistance from 200 to 400 miles away.

/4. The.....

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

Losses of independently routed ships from U-boat attack.

4. The most serious aspects are effect on morale of Merchant Navy due to the inevitable delays and frequent failures in rendering effective assistance; the lack of counter action, also affects the morale of the Merchant Navy and enhances that of the enemy.

5. I propose that the following steps be taken: (A) Revert to fifteen knots as the minimum speed of independently routed ships.
(B) Such ships routes to be near convoy tracks.
(C) Fast outward convoy for ships of twelve to 14.9 knots to be introduced whenever possible. Fast escort groups should be available for these on occasions which can be forecasted now that the sailing of the military convoys has been regularised.
(D) Fast groups to be sailed from Halifax, Bermuda, and Sierra Leone to meet the normal H.X. and S.L. convoys at their R.V. with the local escorts.

Coastal Convoys.

F.N.86. Arrived 0835/19. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0840/19.)

E.N.59. Propose postponing E N 59 for 24 hours on account of bad weather. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0933/19.)

E.N.59.
W.N.72. E.N.59 postponed 24 hours. In consequence W.N. 72 postponed 25 hours. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1007/19, N.C.S.O. Clyde 1024/19.)

/O.B. 275.....

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Coastal Convoys Contd.

O.B.275. Commodore O.B. No. 275 with 3 ships in company will be 4 hours late at Altacarry rendezvous.(Fleur de Lys. 1030/19 to ABERDEEN.)

W.N.71.(O) List of ships and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1126/19.)

W.N.72.(O) No ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1132/19.)

F.N.88.
F.N.87.
F.N.90.
F.S.90.
F.S.91. Movements to 1200/20.
Convoys:- F.N. 88 due Aldeburgh 1630/19.
F.N. 87 left Southend 1200/19.
F.N. 90 due mid Barrow L.V. 1600/19.
VERDUN SHEARWATER and 3 M.V's from F.S.90 due sunk L.V. 1600/19 approx.
F.S.91. due Flamborough 0330/20.
(C. in C. Nore, 1200/19.)

Sailed O.B.O.275. 0545/19. Escort GARDENIA. 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1203/19.)

F.N.88. F.N.88, 0935/19. 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1206/19.)

F.S.90. D.G. gear out of action unable to find fault. S.S. CORDUFF proceeding to join VERDUN remaining 4 ships not sighted. Am proceeding south will be in position 051° 59'N.001° 42' at 1815. (EGRET 1445/19.)

O.B. Convoys. Recently more ships have been available than immediate O.B. convoys can accommodate. Submitted that M. of S. should indicate priority of sailing on such occasions. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1442/19.)

/F.S.90.....

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Coastal Convoys Contd.

F.S.90. Inform EGRET time you expect to pass Sunk and Shipwash. (C. in C. Nore 1425/19 to FLEETWOOD, WALLACE.)

F.N.88. Southend. Ships and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1451/19.)

F.S.91. Ships and destinations. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1506/19.)

F.S.89. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1516/19.)

M.V's. Portsmouth night movements, escorted by 2 A/S Trawlers Dartmouth to Poole and Needles.(C. in C. Portsmouth 1517/19.)

W.N.71. Passed 058° N. at 1515/19. speed made good 6½ knots. (ELLESMERE 1520/19.)

O.B.275. Am proceeding to Oban portion of O.B. No. 275 towards. Altacarry rendezvous. (GARDENIA 1535/19.)

W.N.71.
E.N.58. Movements tonight estimated positions at 2000. W.N.71 latitude Cape Wrath E.N. 58 059° 25' N. 005° 55' W. (A.C.O.S. 1543/19.)

C.N.23. Your 2020/14 arrived less three M.V.'s and three M.L's. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1553/19.)

W.N.71. W.N.71 latitude 58° N. at 1515 speed 6½ knots. (A.C.O.S.1633/19.)

F.S.91. No ships sailing from Humber. (N.C.S. O. Humber 1645/19.)

F.N.87. No ships sailing from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1647/19.)

/E.N.58.....

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Coastal Convoys Contd.

W.N.58.
W.N.71.

Act as additional A/A escort to WN 58 sailing at 2230/17. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail HASTINGS to join WN.71 due Duncansby Head 1330/20. Code word for WN 58 "MISSION" and WN 71 "MUSTER". (C. in C. Rosyth 1700/16.)

F.N.88.
F.N.90.
F.S.90.

Escort F.N.88. GUILLEMOT, VERDUN 3 motor ships from F.N. 90 due Sule Skerry approx. 1600/19 probably anchor at night near B.S.buoy. EGRET probably remaining vicinity number 5 buoy till nightfall to collect remainder F.S.90. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1701/19.)

F.S.90.
F.N.90.

Report position in which you finally anchor(ed) and number of ships in company. Dangerous wreck in position 9.5 cables 275° from Sule Skerry Light Vessel. (C. in C. Nore 1709/19 to EGRET, VERDUN.)

Ships and destinations.

O.B.M.276.

(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1715/19.)

O.B.M.276.

1710/19. ROSEMARY. Five. None with kites. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1717/19.)

F.N.88.

No ships from Humber. (C. in C. Rosyth 1942/19.)

F.S.90.

Your 1709. Am anchored by B.S. buoy steamship CORDUFF in company. Commodore in FULHAM, and 3 ships still unaccounted for. D/G Gear now correct. (EGRET 2026/19.)

/F.N.89.....

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Ships and destinations.

F.N.89.
F.S.90.

VESPER and PYTCHLEY are to leave Sheerness at 0940/20, escort F.N.89, until VERDUN and EGRET are met in Barrow Deep. VESPER and PYTCHLEY are then to take over escort of F.S.90. to Nore L.V. and EGRET and VERDUN are to F.N.89.

EGRET and VERDUN are to weigh with ships in company at first daylight/20, and proceed towards Southend. Ships of F. S. 90 are not to enter Thames Gate until F.N.89 is clear. Code words F.N.89 RADIO. F. S90. ARENA.F.N.89. 48 ships commodore in VALLDEMOSA. SHELDRAKE and PUFFIN additional escort from Harwich. EGRET and VESPER acknowledge.(C. in C. Nore 2106/19 to VESPER PYTCHLEY EGRET VERDUN.

F.N.87.

No ships from Humber. (C. in C. Rosyth 2185/19.)

Fast E.N. Convoys.

C. in C. Rosyth's 2357/13/11 in view of the absence of A/C attacks off Rattray Head during recent weeks and of the slow speed at which ships must proceed when diverted into the Moray Firth it is suggested that fast E.N. Convoys should revert to the direct route to Pentland Firth, being sailed from Methil at such time as will enable them to catch the daylight tide. It is reported that ocean going ships are difficult to manage at the slow speed required by the inshore route and valuable time is also lost. Request your remarks.(D.T.D. 2254/19 to C. in C. W.A.,C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.O.S.

/Reference.....

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Ships and destinations Contd.

Reference D.M.S. Part II Article 123 Collective W/T. Call Signs for use in E.N. Convoys are allocated as follows:-

	CONVOY CODE WORD:-	USAGE.	PADDLE.	MIGHT.	MISSION.
E.N.Code. Words.	(1) Commodore.	E N D 1.	E N S 1	E N D 5	E N S 5.
	(2) Oban Section.	E N D 2.	E N S 2	E N D 6	E N S 6.
	(3) Clyde Section.	E N D 3.	E N S 3	E N D 7	E N S 7.
	(4) Whole Convoy (at any time)	E N D 4.	E N S 4	E N D 8	E N S 8.

The Call Signs given in this signal will come into force commencing with E.N.63. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1100/19.)

F.S. Call Signs.

Cancel my postagram 1058/31/8/40 Reference D.M.S. Part II Article 123 the following W/T collective Call Signs are allocated for use in F.S. Convoys.

EVEN NUMBERED F.S. CONVOYS.

	A	B
(1) Commodore.	F S F S 5	F S E D 1.
(2) Ships bound into Tyne, Tees and Humber, area ports.	F S E S 6	F S E D 2.
(3) Ships bound into Thames.	F S E S 7	F S E D 3.
(4) Whole Convoy (At any time.)	F S E S 8	F S E D 4.

A and B to be used alternately commencing with F.S.2.

ODD NUMBERED F.S. CONVOYS.

	A	B
(1) Commodore.	F S O D 5	F S O S 1.
(2) Ships bound into Tyne, Tees and Humber, area ports.	F S O D 6	F S O S 2.
(3) Ships bound into Thames.	F S O D 7	F S O S 3.
(4) Whole Convoy.(At any time.)	F S O D 8	F S O S 4.

A and B to be used alternately commencing with F.S.1.

If a convoy is cancelled the sequence continues as if the convoy had run. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1700/18.)

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Ocean Convoys. H.G.50.	H.G.50 meet. (C. in C. W.A. 0057/19 to MALCOLM LA MALOUINE SHIKARI SKATE ARABYS.
H.X.98, and H.X.100.	On time at R.V. heavy weather 5/1, during which SOMBA foundered. Remaining ships arrived. (D.T.D. 1407/19.)
Ocean Convoys.	Positions. (D.T.D. 1435/19 to C. in C. H.F.)
H.X.101.	Have left convoy, proceeding ahead to fuel. HEARTSEASE Senior Officer. My position 058° 31' 005° 59'.(AMBUSCADE 1650/19 to C. in C. W.A.)
S.C.20.	Your 1131/18. Destinations. (D.T.D. 1733/19 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S.)
B.H.X.104.	Your 1931/17. Destinations. (D.T.D. 1756/19 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda.)
S.C.18.	Arrived. BENEDICT, LORETO, MANCHESTER SPINNER. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1830/19.)
H.X.101. W.N.72.	Weather conditions permitting Oban section of H X 101 are to be detached to anchor in Bloody Bay Sound Mull for onward routeing in W N 72. (C. in C.W.A. 1941/19 to HEARTSEASE, AUBRETIA, HOLLYHOCK.)
H.X.101.	H.X.101 not present HAIRNBANK MANAQUAI and 7 others. (C. in C. W.A. 2025/19.)

MOST SECRET.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

SOEMBA.	Foundered 5/1 during heavy weather. M.H.K. Convoy. (D.T.D. 1407/19.)
SWITZERLAND SHUNA WALLONIA	See North Atlantic.
SPES.	(Norwegian, 1142 Tons) In 109° Oronsay Light 11 miles. Ship cannot make Clyde or Londonderry. Must have smooth water to clear pumps. Am directing her to Port Charlotte (ULLSWATER 0103/19.) Ship hove to off Cape Campbell. Water in hold not increasing. Am standing by till daylight. (ULLSWATER 0625/19 to C. in C. W.A.)
EUREKA.	(Panamanian, 2243 Tons). Your 1400/30/10 refers. Due Mombasa 15/1. Not arrived. C. in C. E. Indies 0452.2/19. to Adty.)
BIRTLEY.	(British, 2873 Tons.) Driven ashore at George Point, Cullercoats at 0517. Lifeboats ordered out. Tug being sent from Sunderland at daylight. (Portishead Radio 0517/19, and F.O.I.C. Tyne 0741/19 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
MALDA.	(Blockship) Has swung across Tyne owing to Bow Wires parting in strong gale. Port of Tyne closed.(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0640/19.) MALDA now clear. Port open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1437/19.)
HOPERIDGE.	(British, 5222 Tons.) Ashore 5 miles W.S.W. of St. John's Point, Dundrum Bay. Left Liverpool 0200/19 with Convoy OB.275. Master shot himself about 0500/19. H.M.T. SOUTHERN GEM has been sent to stand by. Newcastle Lifeboat ha been sent (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0641 and 1320/19.) Proceed to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2130/19 to SCHELDE.) Still ashore. Apparently undamaged. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1928/19 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/PASS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.Contd.

PASS OF BALLATER. (British Tanker, 796 Tons) My 1148/18. Aground. Unable to join E.N.58. Hope to refloat today. (N.C.S.O. Lyness 1025/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

EDINBURGH CASTLE. (Grimsby Trawler) Stranded at Kettleness at about 0530/19. Crew of 10 rescued by Kettleness L.S.A. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1054 and 1258/19.)

SATOOY. Your 1657/17. ANEMONE accepts responsibility. Damage occurred while trying to obey orders to come alongside. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1113/19 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

CAPE RODNEY. (British 4512 Tons) Tug PRIZEMAN left Immingham 1410 to assist. (F.O.Humber 1432/19.) Tug returned Immingham 1730. Assistance not accepted. (F.O.Humber 1800/19.)

GAASTERKERK. (Dutch, 8679 Tons.) Cancel my 1334/18. Ship delayed probably 48 hours by machinery defects. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1515/19 to Adty.)

EGRET. D.G. gear out of action. (EGRET 1445/19 to C. in C. Nore.)

HONEYSUCKLE. (Corvette) 1 Boiler temporarily out of action after detonating Mine. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1837/19 to Adty.)

MEANDROS. Do not sink ship if in any possible for ENGLISHMAN to take her in tow. ENGLISHMAN has been given your position. (C. in C. W.A. 2323/19 to APBUTUS.)

BROADWAY. Returning to Greenock with defects. E.T.A. 1600/20. Speed reduced to 10 knots. (BROADWAY 2330/19 to Adty.)

CANBERRA. Collided with Guide Pier, Colombo, while berthing on 14/1. Ship seaworthy but permanent repairs to stern will necessitate docking. (C. in C. East Indies 1158/19.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

S.O. Force H. 2119/19. See Operations Volume.

North Atlantic.

PHOEBE.
landing
of ammunition.

Following is a repetition of my 2146/18:- Adty. 1337/15 and 1802/18. Submit that 20% of PHOEBE'S 5.25 ammunition be landed before ship sails, for retention at Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0010/19 to Admty).

Following messages addressed F.O.C.N.A., repeated C. in C. H.F. from Adty passed to you for information. Begins. Your 2146/18 Regret this cannot be approved 0225/19. Ends.
(D.S.O. 0412/19 to C.S;15 C. in C. Med. PHOEBE).

ARK ROYAL'S
bombs.

S.O.Force H. 0924/19.
See Operations Volume.

ARK ROYAL
F.A.A.
Sqdns.

Your 1415/13. Intend allocating 807 Squadron to relieve 800 Squadron in ARK ROYAL.
(D.N.A.D. 1231/19 to S.O. Force H.).

Submarines

Estimated position at 0800/20.
(a) OLYMPUS on Patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(b) OTUS 036° 10'N. 017° 20'W. proceeding on surface to relieve OLYMPUS speed 10 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1404/19).

SWITZERLAND.
SHUNA.
WALLONIA.

The following 3 ships left U.K. in O.O.48 for Lisbon not reported as having arrived there British ships SWITZERLAND SHUNA Swedish WALLONIA.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1619/19).

PANDORA.

Add to my 1404 (C) PANDORA leaves Gibraltar 1830/20 proceeding on surface through 036° 50'N. 011° W. and 043° 50'N. 010° 50'W. speed 10 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1744/19 1748/19).

/FEARLESS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd);

FEARLESS. C. in C. S.A. is requested to signal FEARLESS onward routeing instructions from position (c).
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1806/19).

Sailings 19/1. PHOEBE sailed 1700/19 to U.K. routed through 036° 50'N. 013° 00'W. 041° 00' 018° 40' speed 20 knots.

MONARCH OF BERMUDA, CAPETOWN CASTLE escorted by FEARLESS FORESTER FAULKNOR FURY DUNCAN sailed 1800/19 for Freetown routed through 035° 50'N. 006° 50'W. 034° 00' 012° 15' 028° 40' 020° 10' speed 16 knots.

FAULKNOR FURY DUNCAN part company dark/20. and return to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1816/19).

South Atlantic.

BRITISH UNION, attacked by raider, reports from ARAWA. At 2022/18 in position 027° 01'N. 029° 54'W. sighted gun flash and searchlight bearing 240° altered course close. Searchlight glow and intermittent gunfire visible until 2359. Searchlight then gave final sweep and switched off estimated range about 12 miles. On reaching position ? indicated nothing was sighted. Intend remaining in vicinity this position 026° 34'N. 030° 58'W. until daylight.
(ARAWA 03152/19 to Admty and C. in C. S.A).

My 03152/19. Have picked up one boat crew from BRITISH UNION. Two more boats believed near. Survivors believe raider was big single funnel merchant ship with counter stern. They think she was accompanied by U-boat who fired two torpedoes at them. Am continuing search for other Boats.
(ARAWA, 04582/19).

Pass ARAWA's 0315/19 and 0458/19 to F.O.C.N.F. (C. in C. S.A. 0834/19 to Admty)

Unless you receive other instructions from F.O.C.N.A. or Adty search the area for raider to W.S.W. and South of raider's original position until 1800/21 then proceed Freetown. (C. in C.S.A. 1139N/19 to ARRAWA).

/Dispositions..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Dispositions of ships in S.A. Command.

Addition to his 1431/18 (C. in C.S.A. 1005/19).

BLACKHEATH.
DALFONN.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1015/18. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1035B/19).

OLE WEGGER.
SOLGLIMT.
Sunk by raiders.

Following from Reporting Officer South Georgia begins. Whale catcher THORIS arrived here from ice and reports Whale Factory OLE WEGGER and Transport SOLGLIMT sunk by enemy ship in 059° S. 003° or 004° W. approx. Factory THORSHAMMER should arrive here 20/1 Ends.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 1237Z/19).

D/F bearing indicates German surface unit in approximate position 057 S. 011 W. reliability 65% (A Bearing from Freetown 321 has been discarded). This is near area of operation of Whale Factory ships PELAGOI OLE WEGGER THORSHAMMER SVENDFOYN and SOUTHERN EMPRESS. Request information whether Admiralty have any confirmation of this indication. QUEEN OF BERMUDA now at Falkland Is. and due to proceed to Deception Island can visit this area instead.
(C. in C.S.A.1321/19 to Adty).

Further to my 1237Z/19. Following received from reporting Office Sh. Georgia. Begins. My telegram for "Sunk by" read "believed to be sunk by". Hope to be in position to give fuller information tomorrow, Monday when one of the OLE WEGGER'S catchers arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 1517Z/19).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Your 1337Z/19 (1237/19 intended) ascertain and report date of sinking of OLEWEGGER and SOLOLIMT.
(C. in C.S.A. 1727N/19 to N.O.I.C. Falkland Is.).

My 1321N/19 proceed when ready to operate in area of whaling operation calling$ Georgia on way and ascertain there if fuel is available and any further information about whaling and Raider activities.
(C. in C. S.A. 1921/19 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

Your 1237/19. Pass to Reporting Officer South Georgia. Instruct all Whale Factories and Whale Catchers to maintain strict W/T and R/T silence, except for enemy reports until further orders.
(D.T.D. 1931/19 to N.O.I.C. Falkland Is).

My 1237Z/19 following from S. Georgia begins raider reported to be Motor Vessel over 10000 Tons seem to be latest type Passenger Ship 2 masts I Squat funnels appears to be fairlylight 2145/19 ENDS.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 2358/19).

Southbound Ships crossing 20° N.

For Plate.
(D.T.D. 1256/19).

S.L. 63.
CANTON.

Owing to length of route of S.L. 63 CANTON is unable to return to Freetown without proceeding to U.K. Request arrangements be made for CANTON to boiler clean on arrival Greenock. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail CANTON for Freetown as soon as completed.
(C. in C. S.A. 1303/19).

Defence of Takoradi.

Your 0057/10. As 6" guns were not available two 4.5" guns for coast and A.A. defence and one additional 12 pounder have been despatched.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1408/19 to C.

BRITISH ZEAL.

C. in C. S.A. 1439/19. See U-Boat Campaign.

/DALFONN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

DALFONN attacked by U-Boat.

Master Norwegina tanker DALFONN reports after losing touch with his convoy due to bad weather he sighted 1615 G.M.T/18/12 a large tanker of 8000 flying Netherland flag in 058° 50'N. 016° 11'W. who made hoist "Keep to my starboard side". DALFONN altered course and tanker then made by morse lamps "Require to have assistance, please stand by all my lifeboats carried away". DALFONN asked "What ship". Reply being "Number 23 of convoy" which on the convoy list was PENDRECHT. When closing to pass to Starboard DALFONN sighted at 1635 U-Boat previously hidden by tanker whose name painted over on stern was read as MORDRECHT or MODRECHT and had letters O V of funnel. 1 (one) life boat was seen in davits, and many of remaining lifeboats were over ship's side, weather at time flat calm.

DALFONN opened fire at 6000 yards and turned away increasing range to 10,000 yards having fired 7 rounds altogether. Strange tanker made no effort to engage U-Boat but kept her gun trained on DALFONN. Unknown British Freighter 10 miles to starboard also saw U-Boat and engaged. Due to failing light strange tanker and U-Boat were lost sight of and not seen again.

Master of DALFONN of opinion tanker was acting as decoy and store ship.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1456/19).

S.L.S. 63 9, 10, 2 and 12.

Sailing telegrams.

ARTEMISIA	W.A. Produce	Oban
TRAFALGAR	Iron, Tea	Oban
NEWBURY	Cereals	Oban
TYR (Norwegian)	Iron Ore	Oban
ESKDENE	Cereals	Oban
STONEPOOL	Iron Ore	Oban
FAIRWATER	Iron Ore	Oban
NAILSEA LASS	Iron Ore	Oban
KINGSWOOD	Cotton	Liverpool
MARSA	Iron Ore	Clyde
MOUNT PERA (Greek)	Cereals	Clyde
RABOUL	Cereals	Liverpool
PRINS FREDERIK HENDRIK (Dutch).	Cocos	Barry Roads
CLEARPOOL	Cereals	Liverpool
BARON GRAHAM	Maize	Barry Roads
DALCROY	Wheat	Barry Roads
KELVINBANK.	Cereals	Clyde.

/2.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.(contd).

S.L.S. 63 9, 10, 2 and 12. (contd).

2. Standard route for all ships in event of separation.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1541/19).

ROYALLAN CASTLE.

Your 1307/18. Check and repeat position "I" repetition "I" received as 56° 12'N. 12° 20'W.
(D.T.D. 1737/19 to N.C.S.O. Capetown).

VELOX.
VIDETTE.

Departure 1800 VELOX and VIDETTE for r/v as in C. in C.S.A. 1301N/19. Cancel my 0941N/18.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1825N/19)

Re ALBATROSS.

Request ALBATROSS may be regarded as a catapult ship. Consider that the larger allowance of depth charges is essential for its A/S work on which her Walrus aircraft are employed.
(C. in C. S.A. 2221/19).

Mediterranean.

UNIQUE.

Orders for patrol.
(Comdr (S) to UNIQUE 0255/19).

LOMBARDIA.)
LIGURIA.)

Press report that Italian prisoners from Albania state these transports torpedoed and sunk on passage from Brindisi to Albania (D.S. 502).

SARDEGNA.
PROTEUS (Greek)

Broadcast at 0700/19 stated that SARDEGNA 11452 tons, serving as a troopship had been torpedoed and sunk by a Greek submarine. Italians however, claim to have rammed and sunk the Greek s/m PROTEUS IN THE Adriatic (D.S. 502).

Re reports of German & Italian plans and troop movements.

Your 0041/18. Only confirmation here is numerous reports of arrivals of German Troops and A/C in Italy which have been more detailed and definite lately vide following reports; Only units confirmed in Italy and Sicily are contained in R.A.F. M.E's dailyspecial intelligence summaries 7, 12, 14 and 17/41 addressed Air Ministry H.Q. Malta etc.
(Capt O.S. Alexandria 1012/19 to Adty).

/Docking.....

War Diary.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Docking facilities at Alexandria.

P.S.T.O. Egypt 2046/17 and my ?151) 5/8/1940 Docking facilities at Alexandria are fully taxed in maintaining Mediterranean Fleet. I see no prospect of being able to dock merchant ships or oilers at Alexandria even in the distant future.
(C. in C. Med 1151/19).

Operation.

C. in C. Med 1135/19. See Mediterranean Volume.

Malta, Air Raid, ILLUSTRIOUS damage.

Heavy air raid on dockyard area a.m./19 by very large number of dive bombers. ILLUSTRIOUS sustained underwater damage from near misses and has one boiler room out of action. ILLUSTRIOUS has no further casualties. Bombs in dockyard area caused much damage. Suggest communique should admit that further damage has been caused to ILLUSTRIOUS in order to give enemy the impression that she is not likely to leave for some time. It is understood that after German Communique saying ship had again been seriously hit, our broadcast denied this which will only increase their efforts to demolish her.
(V.A. Malta 1259/19to C. in C. Med).

Second Air Raid. DECOY BERYL damaged s.s. BRECONSHIRE and CLAN MACAULEY.

V.A. Malta 1509/19, 2301/19, C. in C. Med. 1639/19, 1849/19, 1943/19. See Mediterranean Volume.

Reference V.A. Malta's 1259/19 Re communique about damage to ILLUSTRIOUS due to air raid at Malta Para. 2 what are your views please?.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1615/19 to C. in C. Med).

PERTH damage.

PERTH, damage by near miss bomb while at Malta. Ship can steam at 25 knots.
(C. in C. Med 1617/19).

/R.A.F.....

MOST SECRET.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

R.A.F. report of attacks on Malta.

X. 3660. "I" 42 19/1. Combined Services report Malta up to 1700/19. All times G.M.T. Ref. my "I" 40 18/1. German aircraft casualties in dive bombing raid on Luqa and Hal Far now established as follows.

2 Fulmars lost, one pilot and crew saved.

0830 to 0912 about 40 aircraft JU. 87's and JU 88's dive bombed Grand Harbour. C.R. 42's accompanied them.

0924 to 0945 enemy flying boat with red cross marking accompanied by C.R. 42 circled N.E. of Island.

1110 to 1125 Cant Z. 506B circled Island, evidently searching for missing aircraft.

1140 to 1220 aprox 40 JU 88's dive bombed Grand Harbour and Dockyards average of 6 Hurricanes one Fulmar and one Gladiator up during aforesaid raids. Total aircraft brought down as hitherto ascertained confirmed are as follows.
One Hurricane missing. P(I) damage to four Hurricanes K (2) Nil. Dive bombing appreciably less determined today.

A good bad day with a fair score no damage to Govt. property but considerable damage to civilian property no casualties. We can take it and enemy morale visibly affected. Nil report by Sunderland from normal Ionian sea patrol. No naval or military items.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1800/19).

X 3634 1.43 19/1 my 1.42 19/1.
Naval items 19/1 (?) corrected (?) to read "bombs in dockyard caused much damage to Government property. Details will follow.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1845/19).

/Dockyard.....

War Diary. 19.1.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Dockyard subjected to severe dive bombing attacks. Remain in submarine sanctuary and proceed submerged up searched channel so as to surface in position 070° St. Elmo 3.5 miles at 1700 A/20 then proceed to Hamilton Wharf to embark mines (? and sail) on completion.
(S.O. S/M's Malta Force 1805/19 to RORQUAL).

Naval cooperation with 13th Corps.

My 1839/7. Following is report of work carried out in support of army in Western Desert during period 7th - 17th January. (See Situation reports 17/1, 19/1).
(C. in C. Med 1847/19).

Reference Adty 1615/19 re communique about damage to ILLUSTRIOUS. Concur with V.A. Malta.
(C. in C. Med 1853/19).

Air Operations. Tobruk bombed. Suez Canal bombed.

X.3527. A. 842 19/1. H.Q. R.A.F. Operational Summary No. 223 up to 1200/19/.

Part 1. Egypt. Night January 17/18. 8 Wellingtons and 5 Blenheims dropped approximately 30,000 lbs. of bombs on Tobruk starting a very large fire near petrol dumps. 2 unidentified enemy aircraft dropped bombs along Suez Canal near Ismailia and Kantara and machine gunned and M.T. convoy Kantara. No damage or casualties.

Day 18/1 Hurricanes and Australian Gladiators maintained offensive patrols over Tobruk area.

Army report German aircraft believed Heinkel III forced landed west of Tobruk through petrol shortage. Crew of 4 German N.C.O's captured and interrogated here. Libyan deserters state Italian aircraft at Giarabub damaged beyond repair by our troops on 15/1.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1204/19).

/Naval.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Naval Situation.	C. in C. Med 1945/19 See Mediterranean Volume.
AJAX movements.	AJAX leaves Alexandria at 2350 today for Antikithera Channel passing South of Crete. (Capt. (S). 2019/19 to PARTHIAN).
U-Boat Reports.	Capt. O.S. Alexandria 2210/19, 2311/19. See U.Boat Campaign.
Destroyer.	One destroyer may be approaching Alexandria from Eastward at about Dawn tomorrow. (Capt. (S) 2325/19 to PARTHIAN).

East Indies.

S.S. EUREKA.	Panamanian, due Mombasa 15/1 not arrived. Your 1400/30/10 refers. (C. in C. E.I. 0452Z/19 to Adty).
HORTENSIA BERTIN.	Adty 1857/17. (1) No objection to transfer of HORTENSIA BERTIN to Panamanian flag. Arrangements.
VOLANDE BERTIN.	Re charter. (C. in C. E.I. 06302/19).
CANBERRA.	Damage when berthing at Colombo. Seaworthy but permanent repairs will require docking. (C. in C. E.I. 1158/19).
Kismayu. Massawa.	Proposed operations (your 1924Z/18) (A.C.N.S.(F) to C. in C.E.Indies 1320/19). See Operations Vol.
Convoy S.W.4B.	Itineraries of ships. (D. of S.T. 1728/19).

MOST SECRET.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

INVERSUIR. — Your 1220/18. Re route.
(D.T.D. 1739/19 to N.C.S.O. Aruba).

America & West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1123/18. Please confirm that guard sailed in BAYANO 23/12 vide your 1545 (?Dec) 9th.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 0942/19 to N.O.I.C. Kingston, Jamaica).

U.S. Bases. — Cancel my 1231/18 (C. in C. A.W.I. 0901/19).

VOLTAIRE.
MORETON BAY. — Your 1855/16. VOLTAIRE will be refitting vide my 1613/12. MORETON BAY will be sailed for Freetown on or about 25/1. dependent on completion of necessary urgent repairs.

PORT TOWNSEND grounding — Your 1348/18 PORT TOWNSEND position East 057° 10' 010° 00' Average speed of advance (a) 16 knots (b) 16 knots.
(N.C.S.O. Kingston Jamaica 1505/19 to Adty).

Convoy S.C.20. — RANPURA sailing as ocean escort returning to Halifax on completion.
(B.C. 3 1731/19).

CARADOC. — My 1152/17. Leave patrol so as to arrive Trinidad a.m./22.
(C. in C.AWI. 1702/19 to CARADOC).

SEVERN. — E.T.A. Request bombing restrictions.
(SEVERN 2247Z/19).

Australia.

Dutch tanker at Port Moresby. — Your 0803Z/17. Permission is granted to station Dutch tanker at Port Moresby. Permission has already been granted for RABAUL vide A.C.N.B. 0654Z/4. Question of general permission is under consideration.
(A.C.N.B. 0731/19 to C. in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ATLAS.	Sailing of German Steamship ATLAS delayed. (Capt. S.8 0802/19 to URSULA).
ARKADIA.	Istanbul 18/1 arrival ARKADIA. (Galata 1034/19).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LOMBARDIA. LIGURIA. SARDEGNA.	Reported sunk, see Mediterranean.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.	R.A.S.A.D's 2159Z/18 and ASTURIAS 1530/18 not received. Presume MENDOZA has been intercepted. DORSETSHIRE to rendezvous with ASTURIAS and MENDOZA in position 023° 30'S. 032° 30'W. at 1500Z/21 relieve ASTURIAS armed guard and remain as cover until necessary to leave so as to fuel at St. Helena and arrive Freetown p.m./29. MENDOZA to proceed to Ascension report there and ask if any orders then proceed to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 2233N/19 to R.A.S.A.D, DORSETSHIRE, ASTURIAS.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

OROPESA.
(torpedoed 16/1)

Tug SUPERMAN has arrived Campbeltown with survivors from OROPESA. They consist of Lieut Cdr. Struben R.N. 12 rating T.124 ex QUEEN OF BERMUDA and 21 members of OROPESA'S crew. Including R.N.R. Gunner. They report that TENACITY has 20 on board and a destroyer presumably WOLVERINE had 42 total 96 known survivors out of 235 (194 crew and 41 passengers). Ship was hit by three torpedoes at long intervals.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0010/19 to Admty).

Following received from N.O.I.C. Campbeltown begins. Lt. Com. Struben R.N. Survivor from OROPESA reports that at least one boat was last seen under sail course S.S.E. from position of sinking. Suggest aircraft searches 1200/19 Ends.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1320/19 to C. in C. W.A).

BRITISH ZEAL.
(torpedoed 31/12)

My 1719N./4 BRITISH ZEAL now at Freetown. Ship was hit by two torpedoes, extensive damage to starboard side from bridge forward. Estimated time temporary repairs not less than 5 months.
(C. in C.S.A. 1439N/19).

CLAN CUMMING.

"Submarined" off San Georgio but I hope has now reached Piraeus (C. in C. Med 1943/19) See Mediterranean Volume.

ALMEDA STAR.
(torpedoed 17/1)

Ref. my 0949/17 and 1653/18. Request D.6 may assist in search for ALMEDA STAR.
(C. in C. W.A. 1057/19 to R.A.D.H.F.).

S/M's Reported.

0208.

58.20 N., 16.30W. 298° Rockall 95' approximate position. (D.S. 502).

0914.

Estimate an Italian U.Boat returning to Gironde may have been as far East as 006° W. at 0914.
(F.O.(S) 0949/19 to S/M's Area B).

/1417.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19.1.1941. Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported. (contd).

1417. By D/F. 442 - 3 - SM - 54° 40'N. 16° 0'W. 16975. (D.D.I.C. 1417/19).

1818. Aircraft sighted U-boat in position 055° 21'N. 005° 59'W. at 1818. (A.C. W.A. 2157/19 to YORK CITY, AYRESHIRE, PICOTEE, HESPERUS, FLEUR DE LYS).

1732. G.M.T. From D/F bearing Italian U-Boat call sign 66 W. in position 20 miles (?N.W. of) Malta at 1732 G.M.T./19. (Capt O.S. Alexandria 2210/19).

1932B. D/F Bearing from Capt. on Staff Alexandria puts U-Boat 20 miles N.W. Malta at 1932B/19. No British units are operating off Malta tonight. (S.O. (S) Malta 2311/19 to RORQUAL).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

German.
One probably East of Cape Verde Is.
Six between 50° N. and 60° N. and W. of 20° W.
One near 58° 20'N. 16° 30'W. at 0208/19.
One probably to N.E. and one to S.E. of Rockall within 125 miles.

Italian.
One in Freetown area.
One in Bay of Biscay bound for Gironde 6 degrees W. to 8 degrees W.
One near position 75 miles South of Rockall.
Probably five to S.W. Rockall as far West as 23° W. and North of 53° N.
(D.D.I.C. 1251/19).

S/M's Attacked.

1155, By FLEUR DE LYS. Suspect U-Boat in position 055° 15'N. 005° 54'W. hunt started 1155. Firm contact. Have carried out 1 preliminary and 2 deliberate attacks. Remaining in position with YORK CITY whose A/S set defective. (FLEUR DE LYS, 1225/19 to C. in C. W.A.).

/My.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.
(contd).

My 1225. Contact lost after third deliberate attack. FLEUR DE LYS rejoining OB No. 275 leaving YORK CITY whose A/S set is now working in vicinity until 1200/20 or as otherwise ordered. (FLEUR DE LYS 1450/19).

Proceed with all despatch position 055° 15'N. 005° 54'W. where FLEUR DE LYS is in firm contact and has carried out 3 attacks (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1540/19 to ARROW PICOTEE AYRESHIRE).

Lerwick aircraft is being sent to assist. (C. in C. W.A. 1637/19 to FLEUR DE LYS HESPERUS).

Proceed with despatch to assist FLEUR DE LYS attacking firm contact in position 055° 15'N. 005° 54'W. at 1155/19. (C. in C. W.A. 1623/19 to HESPERUS).

Your 1623. No sign of GCPL (BRITISH INDUSTRY) as received, presumably GCPL (FLEUR DE LYS) intended in position indicated. Am proceeding. (HESPERUS 1810/19).

Cancel my 2123 Hunt submarine reported in my 2157.
(C. in C. W.A. 2215/19 to HESPERUS).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.1.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Western Channel Patrol

KASHMIR and JUPITER last night carried out this patrol

Sweep for Raider

There were indications shortly after midnight 19/20, that a raider might pass the Iceland-Faroes passage westbound during the night 20/21. C.S. 2 in ARETHUSA with NIGERIA left Scapa early this morning to patrol west of a line 300° from position 60° 30' N., 10° W., on which line air R.C. was arranged for tomorrow. Orders were given for CHITRAL and LETITIA on Northern Patrol, to reverse direction to patrol to N.E. during 21/1.

SS FLORIAN

Wreckage and a damaged lifeboat marked FLORIAN were found this afternoon about 250 miles N.W. of the Butt of Lewis. FLORIAN should have been near this position early this morning.

U-Boat Campaign

SS THELMA, straggler from Convoy H.G. 50 ~~was torpedoed~~ early this afternoon in the S.W. Approaches. It is reports that SS NICOLAOS FILINIS was damaged by torpedo and gunfire on 15/1 about 550 miles West of Ireland.

British Air Activity

There is at the moment no Air Striking Force at Hatston.

All operations last night and today by Bomber Command were cancelled on account of bad weather. One Hudson bombed the aerodrome at Lister today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.1.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Dutch SS HEEMSKERK in Convoy S.L. 61 was bombed and set on fire this morning west of Ireland and sank later.

Convoys H.X. 101 and F.S. 90 were attacked in the N.W.Approaches and Thames Estuary respectively, but no damage is reported.

BOREAS was prevented from sailing as the result of enemy bombing of London last night

Mining

Mining in Thames Estuary	Minelaying by enemy aircraft estimated to number 35 last night is suspected in the Thames Estuary and off the East Coast. Twelve objects were heard to fall last night in the Southend area, one mine exploded on Maplin Sands and one can be seen at low water near Shoeburyness.
Bristol Channel	C. in C., W.A., reports that the losses and damage to ships from enemy minelaying in the Bristol Channel are assuming serious proportions. Means of countering the menace are being investigated.
Liverpool	M/S Trawler RELONZO was sunk today in Crosby Channel.

Operations Against Vichy French

MENDOZA	There is a report that French naval forces may attempt to retake MENDOZA at sea if she proceeds to Freetown.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.1.1941
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Italian Submarine at Las Palmas

An Italian submarine arrived at Las Palmas this morning and moored alongside the breakwater. The vessel is damaged above the waterline, it is reported as the result of gunfire. Repairs are being carried out.

Mediterranean

British Air Operations

7 Wellingtons attacked Catania aerodrome this evening, dropping 24,220 lbs. H.E. and 1920 incendiary bombs. 14,230 lbs of bombs were dropped on Tobruk last night. Targets at Valona were bombed last night and today. Brindisi Railway Station was also attacked last night, but all bombs missed and fell in the Town.

Enemy Air Operations

The Italians appear to be employing aircraft with Red Cross markings in the Western Desert, for military purposes.

Piraeus was bombed today and the SS VASCO was damaged. Slight damage was also caused today in an attack on Heraklion aerodrome in Crete.

Yugoslav Ships Transporting War Materials for Italy

M.A. Belgrade reports that the Italians have organised the transport of war material from Bar in Yugoslavia to Albania. An increasing number of Yugoslav ships are taking part in this traffic, which is attaining dangerous proportions.

China

A Naval engagement is reported to have taken place last night between Thai and Indo-China forces, in which two Thai destroyers were sunk and Thai coast defences damaged. The French state that they sus-tained no damage or casualties.

MOST SECRET.

20. 1. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Lights at Inchmarnock. Water.

Large number of night exercises now taking place in Inchmarnock water, request that more lights may be lit at low brilliancy. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1641/20 to Adty.)

Penalty Areas.

A. Starting from 23/1. F.O.S. will promulgate daily to H.Q.C.C.,R.A.N.A.S., and A.C.O.S., large areas in which it is known that no friendly submarine is operating.

B. These areas will remain in force for 24 hours from 0800 daily and will be signalled the previous afternoon. They will be referred to as Penalty Areas.

C. In these areas any submarine may be attacked by aircraft at sight without regard to any recognition signals the submarine may make.(F.O.S.2227/20 to Adty.)

Six TOWN-Class Destroyers to work up at Londonderry.

Your 1120/18. These can be accepted, but with the following provisoes. (Capt. D. Londonderry 2340/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/20. (D.C. 1154/20.) At 2330/20. (D.C.2336/20.)

Scapa A/A Defences.

Your 1637/19. to A.A. command. Understand from movements Scottish command that eight Bofors guns should arrive OSDEF. this week. Remaining eight Sk Ks are being taken to expedite. (Dacoast Four 1832/20 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

20. 1. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

LYCIA. TABARKA. (Blockships)	Your 1440/18. LYCIA expected ready about 27/1 and TABARKA about 5 weeks later. LYCIA's engines unreliable. (D. of L.D. 1241/20 to A.C.O.S.)
INTREPID SEALION.	Your 1032/16. Sailing of INTREPID cancelled by F.O.I.C. Humber owing to port being closed. (C. in C. Nore 1513/20 to Adty.) My 1333/19. All times postponed 24 hours. (S.6. 1707/20. to C. in C. Rosyth.)
PHOEBE.	F.O.C.N.A. 1802/18. Route to Scapa. (C. in C. W.A. 1517/20.)
Northern Patrol.	Trawler Lines tonight. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1555/20.)
MOOLTAN.	Request Thames Pilot be sent to Newcastle at once for voyage to London. Ship due to sail 23/1. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1727/20 to Adty.)
CIRCASSIA.	Position at 1600/21. (CIRCASSIA 1817/20 to C. in C. W.A.)
J.3968.) AURORA)	My 1148/19. Programme cancelled. Ship cannot now be sailed till AM/25. Request AURORA and Destroyers not arrive at Bar before 1000/25. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1826/20 to Adty.)
PICOTEE) PEGASUS.)	Proceed Belfast and sail with PEGASUS tomorrow, or make 321 R/V 00° Altacarry 8 miles at 1530/21. (C. in C. W.A. 2341/20 to PICOTEE.)

MOST SECRET.

20. 1. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Raider.

A Raider may pass the Iceland-Faroes passage Westbound during night 20/21.

2. Air R/C on a line 300° for about 150 miles from 60° 39' N. 10° 00' W. has been requested during daylight/21.

3. C.S.2 in ARETHUSA with NIGERIA is to proceed at 0600 to-day to Patrol to the westward of the above line.

4. If no information is received by nightfall /21 ships are to return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 0053/20 to C.S.2.)

Western Channel Patrol.

Raider may pass Iceland-Faeroes passage westbound during night 20/21. Ships are to reverse direction to patrol to N.E. during day. Our cruisers are operating west of line 300° from position 60° 30'N. 010° W. Air R/C on this line.(F.O.C.N.P. 1115/20 to CHITRAL, LETITIA.)

KASHMIR, JUPITER sailed from Plymouth 1842/19. (C. in C. W.A. 0735/20.)

MINNIE DE LARRINAGA.

Sailing postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore 0940/20 to V.A. Dover.)

My 0940/20. Impossible for tugs to hold MINNIE DE LARRINAGA in Southend Roads in existing weather. Ship has been ordered to return to Gravesend. If weather suitable she will be sailed for Southend to arrive p.m. tomorrow and a further attempt made to tow to Dover on 22nd. If this fails, operation must be abandoned until next favourable periods of moon and tide.(C. in C. Nore 1410/20 to V.A. Dover.)

Your 1410/20. MINNIE DE LARRINAGA arrived Gravesend 1500 moored to Buoy. Ready to sail 1100/21.(F.O.I.C. London 1515/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

MOST SECRET.

20. 1. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

WILK. You may sight WILK off Bell Rock, waiting to enter Tay. (C. in C. Rosyth 0734/20 to GALATEA.)

Request you detail Rescue Tug at Peterhead to proceed to assist WILK in 240° 5 miles from Bell Rock. (C. in C. Rosyth 1758/20 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

WILK reported broken down in 240° 5 miles from Bell Rock. Request you send BULGER to assist. Tug from Peterhead is also proceeding. (C. in C. Rosyth 1806/20 to N.O.I.C. Leith.)

TORBAY. My 1210/19. Sailing postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore 0942/20.)

H.50. Departure delayed by bad weather. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1255/20.)

CACHALOT. My 1019/18. Delayed 24 hours. (S.2. 1417/20.)

Information to S/M's. Adty. General Message 61.A.2. of 20/1. Para. 2. Responsibilities of Captains S. for passing Information to S/M's are as follows. (A.C.N.S.H. 1433/20.)

PANDORA. Bombing restrictions arranged. (F.O.S. 1708/20 to PANDORA.)

Positions. For 24 hours after 0800/21.(F.O.S. 1713/20.)

/Signals.....

MOST SECRET.

20. 1. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines Contd.

Signals by S/M's returning from North Sea Patrols.

(A.C.N.S.H. 1748/20 to V.A.S.)

OSIRIS.

R/V for 0900/21. (S.S. 1845/20.)

British Air Activity.

Anti-Raider Patrol.

Request Air Patrol on a line 300° from 60° 30' N. 10° W. during daylight/21. Object to report enemy who may pass Iceland Faroes Channel from eastward during night 20/21.

2. A Cross over patrol similar to Pugle carried out twice over by two aircraft would appear satisfactory. (C. in C. H.F. 0055/20 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 0055/20. Air patrol will be flown by one Sunderland making two circuits on cross-over patrol commencing daylight from position 60° 30' N. 10° W. to a depth of 150 miles on bearing 300° from this position. Visibility distance ten miles. (C. in C. Rosyth 1036/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

Cancel my 1036/20. One Sunderland A/C will carry out two circuits of a Cross-over Patrol through the following points; and another Sunderland will carry out a similar Patrol through the following points. Both A/C taking off at 0630/21and returning to Base by dark. (C. in C. Rosyth 1750/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

Hatston.

Your 1931/9/12. Request I may be informed when 816 and 825 Squadrons will arrive at Hatston where no Striking Force is now available since departure of Skuas of 801 Squadron to St.Merryn. (A.C.O.S. 1304/20 to Adty.)

/Lorient.....

MOST SECRET.

20. 1. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Lorient
Brest.

AP. 774/20/1. Operations for tonight as ordered for Night 19/20, subject to weather and aerodrome conditions. (H.Q.C.C. 1405/20 to 16 Group St. Eval, North Coates, Thorney.)

Amending X.380 21/12. (Air Min. 1601/20.)

Enemy Air Activity.

HEEMSKERK. (In Convoy S.L.61.)

(Dutch, 6616 Tons.) Bombed, stopped, and on fire in 53° 43' N. 16° 7' W. (Valentia Radio 1133/20.)

Proceed through position in my 2255/19 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1210/20 to ENGLISHMAN.) S.L.61 attacked in 53° 42' N. 15° 37' W. HEEMSKERK on fire. DELPHINIUM standing by. Convoy course 057°, speed 4 knots. (VETERAN 1240/20, to C. in C. W.A.)

Proceed to assist (C. in C. W.A. 1241/20 to ARABIS.) My 1241. Machine twin-engine Bomber. Black. Observed by Officer. (WOLFHOUND 1249/20.) Cancel my 1241. Rejoin MALCOLM (C. in C. W.A. 1521/20 to ARABIS.)

My 1240/20. HEEMSKERK fire out. Engine disabled but likely to remain afloat (? some time). (?Three) men on board, remainder in DELPHINIUM. Request Rescue Tug in 53° 44' N. 15° 30' W. DELPHINIUM standing by but cannot tow and has not received A.G.M. 691.A. CAMELIA only in company. (VETERAN 1551/20 to C. in C. W.A.) My 1210/20. Ship reported in 53° 44' N. 15° 30' W. at 1551. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2218/20 to ENGLISHMAN.)

/ZELO.....

MOST SECRET.

20. 1. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

ZELO.
(In Convoy
F.N.88.)

(British, 2294 Tons) Slightly damaged and making water after near miss by Bomb yesterday. Proceeding independently to make Tyne before dark. (WALLACE 1135/20. to C.in C. Rosyth.)

Convoy
H.X.101.

Enemy A/C attacking Convoy. (HOLLYHOCK. Recd. 1210/20.) Attacking in 56° 19' N. 7° 18' W. (Plymouth W/T.Recd.1212/20.)

BOREAS.

(Destroyer) My 1150/18. Sailing deferred about 3 days owing to result of Enemy Bombing last night.(F.O.I.C. London 1212/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

? Convoy
F.S.90.

One A/C bombing. (EGRET 1230/20.) Seven Bombs. No damage. (EGRET 1242/20) (Nore W/T 1253/20.)

Convoy
W.N.71.

One A/C shadowing in 58° 28' N. 2° 37' W. (CURACOA 1427/20.)

BONNINGTON
COURT.

Am standing by (ST. MELLONS 1442/20) Consider salvage impracticable. Position 1 mile West of Sunk Light Vessel. Aground aft. and bows in the air. Fuel Oil still smouldering. (Salvage Officer, Harwich 1700/20 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

Disposal
of S/M's.

C. in C. H.F. 51 /H.F. 01201A 13 of 14/1/41. In considering most profitable area in which to dispose S/M's on patrol in North Sea to meet a threat of invasion it would be great assistance to know whether or not mines exist in area between 056° 40' N. to 057° 10' N and 004° E to 006° E. It would be appreciated if destroyers could carry out an exploratory sweep in this area. (F.O.S. 1307/21 to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

20. 1. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames Estuary.	Summary of Air Activity for Night 19/20. (S.O. T.L.D.F.1309/20 to C. in C. Nore.)
RELONZO.	(M/S. Trawler) Mined and sunk in Crosby Channel off C.10. Red Buoy at 1015/20. 2 survivors. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1414/20.)
Operations in Enemy Waters.	Your 1632/18. Similar proposals have been considered, and it is hoped to implement them to the maximum extent that resources will permit. (A.C.N.S. H. 1745/20 to C. in C.H.F.)
Surveying.	R.A.M.L's 0948/18. Beacon A Dornoch Firth in following position by taut wire. (SCOTT 2111/20 to R.A.M.L.)
Sweep by 5th M/S Flotilla.)	My 2237/16. Operation postponed. Now to begin at dusk/25 and complete by dark/26. (C. in C. Rosyth 2215/20 to M/S. 5.)
Bristol Channel.	The losses and damage to ships due to enemy minelaying in the Bristol Channel, particularly in the vicinity of Flatholm and Steepholm, are assuming serious proportions. Balloon Barrage Trawlers are unsuitable for operating in this area as they are all fitted with Internal Combustion Engines. 2. F.O.I.C. Cardiff is taking up the question of mounting A.A. Batteries on Flatholm and Steepholm with the appropriate Military authorities, and the practicability of flying balloons from these islands is being investigated by the Balloon Barrage Commander. (C. in C. W.A. 1112/20 to Adty.)

/ ..... Int .....

MOST SECRET.

20. 1. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence

E-Boat.	Suspected near South Shipwash. (C. in C. Nore 0031/20 and 0113/20.)
Brest.	One HIPPER-class Cruiser in dry-dock on 19/1. (D.D.I.C. 1738/20.)

Miscellaneous.

Blyth.	Closed to incoming traffic, due to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 0944/20.)
Humber.	My 1614/19. Weather makes it impossible for Humber to open until 1200/21. (F.O. Humber 1244/20.)
Orkneys Cable.	One of the 8 submarine cables between Orkney and Scotland has broken down. Total number of Channels now remaining is 19. Cable ship to repair urgently required. (A.C.O.S. 1906/20 to Adty.)
Sabotage at Worthy Down.	Your 1619/13. No sabotage discovered at this station. (R.N.A.S. Worthy Down 1502/20.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Routeing of convoys for Pentland Firth.

Your 2254/19. Concur subject to concurrence of C.in C. Rosyth. (C.in C. W.A. 1043/20 to Adty.)

Your 2254/19 concur so far as Orkneys and Shetlands command is concerned. (A.C.O.S. 1103/20).

Adty. 2254/19 C.in C. W.A. 1043/20 A.C.O.S. 1103/20 direct route for E.N. Convoys fast and slow will be reverted to commencing with E.N.61. As it was arranged to advance the time of sailing to allow for the diversion, shipping was not actually delayed, though an extra night was spent at sea instead of in Methil Roads. Should attacks recommence diversion will be reinstituted. (C.in C. Rosyth 1745/20).

Navigation near Iceland.

The attention of masters of ships proceeding to Iceland is to be drawn to Arctic Pilot Vol.2 pages 58 and 59 in view of the groundings that have occurred on this coast. Small ships should be warned to keep outside 100 fathom line until daylight. Special care is necessary in regard to the deviation of degaussed vessels. (D.T.D. 1061/20).

Ships firing at aircraft.

C.in C. W.A. 1801/17 Appreciate the necessity for escorting aircraft being able to approach convoys to identify themselves without being fired but in order to achieve this consider it neither desirable nor necessary for unrecognised aircraft to be free to approach to within 3,000 yards of H.M. Ships without being fired at under all conditions and therefore propose that the 3,000 yard artillery zone should apply only when the following conditions are fulfilled.
(A) Ships are to the west of 7° W.
(B) Ships have been warned to expect the approach of friendly aircraft.
(C) The aircraft are below 3,000 feet and in level flight.
Unless all the above conditions are satisfied it is considered that the zones proposed in Adty. 1201/12 should apply. Otherwise opportunity to frustrate attacks before they have fully developed will in many cases be lost. (C.in C. Rosyth 1213/20).

/ Route, Iceland to Scottish ports. .....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Route, Iceland to Scottish ports.	Cancel Adty. 0222/31/8. 2. Ships bound between Iceland and Scottish ports are to be routed clear of the area enclosed within the following positions: 3. Ships trading between Finnish Arctic and American ports and ships bound for the Faroes are only to approach this area by (route). (D.T.D. 1931/20).

Coastal Convoys.

F.N.89 F.S.90.	My 2106/19. F.N.89 postponed 24 hours by weather. F.S.90 is to proceed to Southend. (C.in C. Nore 0944/20 to VESPER PITCHLEY EGRET VERDUN.)
O.B.N.277.	1750/21. LEEDS UNITED. 5. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1010/20).
F.S.88, 89, 90.	Arrived except LYSAKER IV. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1015/20).
O.B.276. PEGASUS	My 2241/15. F.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to sail PEGASUS for O.B. 276. (2) orders are similar to those for SPECIMEN TWO except that a Trawler or Corvette is to be detailed to attend on PEGASUS during flying operations. (C.in C. W.A. 1103/20).
W.N.72 (0)	Cancel my 1132/19 request by SOUTHERN STAR 9 ships anchored Bloody Bay to rendezvous with CHITTY in position 057° 007° 05' W. at 1330/21. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1125/20 to C.in C. W.A.)
F.N.89. F.S.92. F.N.91.	My 1329/10 and 1917/17. FN 89 and FS 92 postponed 24 hours owing to weather. FN 91 postponed 24 hours in consequence. (C.in C. Rosyth 1145/20).
E.N.59.	EN 59 cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 1147/20).
F.N. and F.S.	F.N.87 due Flamboro' Head 1900/20. F.N.89 postponed until 0930/21. FS.91 due Aldeburgh Lt. Float 0300/21. F.S.92 Flamboro' Head 1200/21. (C.in C. Nore 1200/20).
F.N. 87 and 88	No ships sailed from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1215/20).
S.C.19	Convoy Sailing Telegram as amended by Admiralty - Begins. (D.T.D. 1354/20).

/ W.N.72 ....

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys-Contd.

W.N. 72	1230/20. H.M.T. INDIAN STAR CAPE MARIATO One ship (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1440/20)
9 M.V's	Portsmouth night movements. Convoys 9 M/V's and 2 A/S trawlers Needles to Dartmouth. FERNIE and VANSITTART acting as close escort, leaving convoy in time to reach Needles 0900/21. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1457/20)
F.N. 90	Postponed 24 hours. (C. in C., Rosyth 1605/20)
Escort O.B. 276	PICOTTEE from Liverpool ANTELOPE, ANTHONY HEATHER, LADY MADELEINE from Clyde and AYRESHIRE from Oban. ANTELOPE Senior Officer. (Capt. (D) Greenock 1605/20)
W.N. 71 F.N. 88 F.N. 87	Movements tonight 20/21. CURACOA leaves W.N. 71 about 1900 and returns to Scapa. W.N. 71 Kinnaird 2100 E.T.A. F.N. 88 20 C Buoy 1830 F.N. 87 estimated passing Flamborough 0400. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1610/20)
F.S. 90	F.S. 90 arrived except S.S. GLENDINNING from Tyne. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1621/20)
O.B.O. 276	0900/21/1. Escort AYRSHIRE 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1631/20)
O.B. 276	Sailed 1519/20. 7½ knots 7 ships No Kites. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1636/20)
Convoy Escorted by FERNIE and VANSITTART	My 1457/20 para (3) Sailing postponed 24 hours. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1653/20)
F.N. 88	F.N. 88 consisting of SS DUNMOISE bound for Methil with WALLACE and VIVIEN E.T.A. 0530 (WALLACE 1944/20)
E.N. 60	2230/21. H.M.T's GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE, FOXTROT, RUMBA additional escort FOWEY 28 ships (18 Overseas) Buchan Ness 1200/22 Duncansby Head 0745/23. Code words E.N. 60 Paddle. E.N.L. Portsion Monitor E.N.O. Portion Mixture. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1955/20)

/W.N. 71....

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys-Contd.

W.N. 71	W.N. 71 Passing Rattray Head at 2200/20 (ELLESMERE 2210/20)
E.N. 60	My 1955/30 for FOWEY read JASON. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2211/20)
F.S. 88, 89,90.	My 1015/20. LYSAKER IV in Tyne. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 2305/20)
Ocean Convoys	
H.G. 50	Londonderry Departures 19/1. ARABIS for H.G. 50. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0921/20)
S.L.S. 61	S.L.S. 61., 10 hours late. 9 ships in company. Convoy scattered during gale 17/1. (S.L.S. 61 0948/20)
S.L.S. 61	Commodore reports convoy scattered in gale 9 ships in company 10 hours late. (C. in C., W.A., 1443/20)
O.G. 50 S.L.S. 61 MALCOLM	Remain with O.G. 50. Orders follow for R.V. with S.L.S. 61. (C. in C., W.A., 1559/20 to MALCOLM)
H.G. 50	H.G. 50 not met. My estimated position 053° 58' N., 019° 25' W., searching with SHIKARI for convoy. Strong North East gale bumping heavily over six knots into it. SS ATLAND of S.L.S. 61 keeping in touch with me. (MALCOLM 1733/20)
H.X. 101	Instructions for approaching and entering Liverpool. (N.O.i/c Liverpool 2200/20 to HEARTSEASE)
S.L. 61 ARBUTUS	Your 1655 DELPHINIUM standing by HEEMSKIRK Endeavour to join VETERAN and escort of S.L. 61 VETERAN's position at 1240/20. If not met proceed Liverpool. (C. in C., W.A. 2221/20 to ARBUTUS)

MOST SECRET

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Monday

War Diary

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

WILK — (Submarine) Reported broken down in 240° 5 miles from Bell Rock (See Submarines)

ARY — (Panamanian, 642 tons) Your 1347/13. Not yet arrived.

M/S BANDANGER Bergen — Raft with this name washed up near Dunbreath harbour (C. in C., Rosyth 1715/21 passing F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1305/20, 1915/20)

D.L. HARPER — British Tanker, 12,223 tons) Unable to steer. Am standing by in 226° Skerryvore Lighhouse 8 miles. Master requests Tug (ANGLE 1240/20 to C. in C., W.A.,) Proceed to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1621/20 to ASSURANCE) Sailed ASSURANCE from Campbeltown to assist (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1725/20)

ELENI — S.O.S. Approx. 52° 2' N., 55° 0' W., true course 199 speed 3 knots 1037/20 (SS ELENI via Land's End Radio. R.O.R. 1143/20)

FLORETTE — Aux Ketch 1320/20. Ashore Newry Beach, Holy Head Harbour. Abandoned at 1410/20 (B.M.S.M. 204/ 23/1/41)

FLORIAN — (British, 3174 tons) Met considerable Wreckage and damaged lifeboat marked FLORIAN in 61° 14' N., 12° 5' W., (NORTHERN FOAM 1355/20)
FLORIAN's estimated position at 0600/20 was 61° 14' N., 12° 5' W., (D.D.I.C. 1819/20)
FLORIAN outward bound should have passed within 12 miles of this position at 0200/20 (C. in C., H.F., 1851/20 to F.O.C. 2nd C.S NIGERIA)

TIERCEL — (H.M.Yacht) In collision with VICEROY Damaged davit, sea boat and accommodation latter. Ready to sail 21st. (WESTERN ISLES 1622/20 to Admty.)

HOPERIDGE — Sailed SCHELDE at 2340/19 from Campbeltown to assist as by my 2110/19 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0715/20 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

/MENANDROS....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.1.1941.
Monday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS-Contd.

MEMANDROS	Lost touch during night. Have searched. Consider sunk. Request further attempt by D/F bearings. (ARBUTUS 1655/20 to C. in C., W.A.)
LEAMINGTON	Returning to Base owing to shortage of boiler water and defective steering gear. (LEAMINGTON 2000/20 to C. in C., W.A.)
GLENDINNING	(British, 1927 tons) Report of ship has been seen. Last reported anchoring at Sheringham Light Buoy with windlass broken down. (C. in C., Nore, 2131/20)
AMSTERDAM (Tug)	Returned owing to bad weather (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1100/20)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

S.O. Force H. 1407/20, 1815/20.
See Operations Volume.

INDOCHINOIS.

Prize proceedings against INDOCHINOIS instituted at Freetown in accordance with Sec. of State for Colonies. tel. 793. Ship will be immobilised until legal proceedings are completed, which cannot be earlier than 20/2. Understood that if prize proceedings were remitted to U.K. ship could be allowed to sail. As ship is now fully manned with British crew and could sail as soon as loaded request consideration be given to this course.
(C. in C.S.A. 2225N/20 to Adty).

North Atlantic.

Italian S/M at Canary Is.

One Italian Submarine arrived Puerto de la Luz Las Palmas 0600/20 morred alongside breakwater.
(B.C. Las Palmas 0940/20 F.O.C.N.A. 1711/20).

Convoy Escort of FURIOUS.

FAULKNOR, DUNCAN, FURY part company from convoy as requisite to join FURIOUS, NEPTUNE ISIS ENCOUNTER during daylight 21/1 and provide extra escort to Gibraltar. FURIOUS (route). Estimated position course and speed 0800Z-1/21.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1154/20 to Capt D.8).

S/M's

Positions at 0809/21.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1202/20).

A/A guns for Malta.

F.O.C.N.A. 1501/20.
See Operations Volume.

SURPRISE.

SURPRISE arrived (Corrupt Group) 1830 G.M.T./20.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1745/20).

MIRROR
ARTIC RANGER.
Cable operation.

My 1302/18 Vessels returned 1815 20th.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1816/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE'S aircraft.

My 0104Z/17 Min. of For. Aff. unable to communicate any decision for time being.
(N.C.S.O.(I) Montevideo 0212/20).

Reply (V.C.N.S. 2227/20) See Operations Volume.

For Minister - please obtain permission for NEWCASTLE to visit Montevideo for a 24 hour no-fuelling visit on 24/1. If visit approved hope she can embark aircraft.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1421Z/20 to S.O.(I) Montevideo).

Force T.

Simonstown departure 0800/20 Force T. in accordance with my 1303/17.
(S.N.O. Simonstown 0807B/20).

ROWALLAN CASTLE etc.

Positions (N.C.S.O. Capetown 0933B/20, 1414/20).

EUMAEUS.

Cin C. S.A. 1155N/20 See U-boat Campaign.

Avoiding action by M.V's.

Your 1737/18 Suggestions.
(C. in C.S.A. 0923N/20 1157N/20 to Adty).

Raider.

My 2231N/19. FurtherD.F. Bearing indicates this enemy surface vessel was within 150 miles of position 025° S. 010°W. at 2017Z/19. Reliability 80 per cent.
(C. in C.S.A.k 1100/20 to S.O. Force K. DEVONSHIRE, HAWKINS).

SUECIA
CLAN MACNAUGHTON.

Overdue shipping Swedish ship SUECIA CLAN MACNAUGHTON Capetown Jan 15. and Jan 16. respectively from U.K. not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1135B/20).

Southbound ship crossing 20°N. for Cape.

(D.T.D. 1156/20)

/Sinking.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.).

Sinking of OLE WEGGER and SOLGLIMT.

Departure A.M./20 QUEEN OF BERMUDA in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1921N/19. (N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 12512/20).

Your 1727N/19, following from South Georgia begins date of capture of vessels referred to was 14/1 early morning. Four catchers which were alongside OLEWEGGEN are thought to be captured as well 1750/20. Ends. (N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 2306Z/20 to C.in C. S.A.).

FEARLESS.

S.O.(I) Gibraltar's 1806/19. Pass through following positions. Thence to Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1435/20 to FEARLESS).

Convoy S.L.63.

List of ships, cargoes, destinations. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1437N/20).

Departure 1200/20 CANTON escorting convoy SL 63 with MILFORD, CLEMATIS and CYCLAMEN as local escort until dusk/24. C.in C. S.A. 1312/19 (? 1303/19 intended) refers. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1606/20).

PENDRECHT.

My 1456/19. Convoy List showed PENDRECHT (23) Bound for Soe-Soe via Cape of Good Hope. No Vesca received here of this ship's movements. Request information. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1606/20 to Adty.).

Fitting of Catapult in ALCANTARA.

My 1931/27/11 and Adty. 1840/17/12. Request information whether these improvements have been fitted in ALCANTARA during present refit. (C.in C. S.A. 1917/20 to Adty.).

Operation.

Code word PAGEANT. (D.O.D.(H). 1608/20). See Operations Volume.

/ SOUTHERN ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

SOUTHERN EMPRESS. SVEND FOYN.	D.O.D.(F) 1626/20 to C. in C. S.A. See Operations Volume.
Convoy W.S.5B.	Proposed Brunkering programme. (D. of S.T. 2218/20).
Troop Transports.	The disembarkation and embarkation of troops from NEURALIA whilst W.S. 5A was at Freetown was considerably hampered by the fact that she was coaling during the whole of her stay. Selection of an oil burning ship would greatly facilitate such operations and it would be appreciated if this could be arranged in any similar case in future. (C. in C.S.A. 2215N/20).

Mediterranean.

Prisoners captured by Greeks.	Offer to transfer some overseas. (W.O.0500/20).
Operation.	C. in C.Med. 1037/20, 1401/20. See Mediterranean Volume.
Fitting of destroyers.	Your 1417/17. Should prefer H.A. gun to be fitted. (C. in C. Med. 1405/20 to Adty).
Convoy A.S.11.	Sailing telegram. 0050/14. 7½ knots. List of Ships. (Athens 1410).
S.S. ESSEX. damage.	Damage sustained by transport ESSEX due to enemy action 1681 as follows. (S.T.O. Malta 1430/20).
German Air Activities in Mediterranean.	Summary of activities affecting R.N. (C on S. Alexandria 1456/20, 1504/20).

/Air.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Air Operations.

1.44 20/1. Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700/20.
Total bag for 19/1 19 confirmed 3 unconfirmed and 4 damaged.
Today R.C. but no raids though weather fine.
0530 to 1540 Sunderland recco. Ionian Sea. No shipping seen.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1735/20).

Enemy Transports.

A considerable and growing number of troop transports (of the type also used for parachutists) have been detected in Sicily.
(Capt O.S. Alexandria 1504/20).

BONAVENTURE'S spare gun barrels. Re-ammunition.

Adty 1357/15 (? 1337/15 intended) Request early shipment of 5.25 inch (corrupt group) barrels and gun mounting spares for BONAVENTURE. In view of (?wear) request barrel may come in W.S. six if possible.

Two. Request F.O.C.N.A. will confirm quantity of 5.25 ammunition embarked in MONARCH OF BERMUDA and/or CAPETOWN CASTLE.
(C. in C. Med 2313/20).

Convoy A.N. 13.

Convoy A.N. 13 sailed 1800/20. due Piraeus 1900B/22. Convoy comprises (ships).
(N.C.S.O. Alexandria 1801/20).

Transport of war materials by Yugoslav ships for Italy.

My 115/9.
(a) Italians have organized transport of war materials and other stores to Albania via Bar, small Port in Yugoslavia, South Kotor.

(b) From Bar cargoes are transported by one of following 3 routes to Scutari.

(c) An increasing number of Yugoslav ships, particularly small coastal vessels, participating in this traffic. As total of traffic is attaining dangerous proportions I submit action along following lines should be taken.
(N.A. Belgrade 1946/20).

/Italian.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Italian Red Cross Aircraft

X.3929. A.450. Italian aircraft with Red Cross markings have recently appeared Western Desert. 1 of these aircraft forced to land by our Fighters was destroyed by crew who were captured. Aircraft was apparently carrying mail and an assorted cargo which included some ammunition. In November last all units this Command were notified that aircraft with Red Cross markings could be attacked if encountered over or on vicinity of British or Allied territory or ground or sea forces. This intention was communicated to the Italians. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1833/20).

A.385 20/1. Daily Summary Operations. 1 Routine A.S. Patrol. 1 Surface Recco East. Area covered Spartel to 4°W. Flying curtailed owing to weather. (200 Group 1745/20).

ILLUSTRIOUS. N.O.I.C. Malta 1927/20, C. in C. Med. 2349/20. See Mediterranean Volume.

SOMERTSHIRE (Military Hospital Ship) Sailed 2147/19. (D. of S.T. 2112/20).

MOST SECRET.

20.1.1941.
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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

EUREKA.	Cancel my 0452/19. EUREKA arrived. (C. in C. E.I. 0456z/20).
Operation.	C. in C. E.I. 0548Z/20. See Operations Volume.
Troop Movement.	S.S.T.O. India 0835Z/20. See Operations Volume.
COLOMBO.	My 2032/15 COLOMBO returned to Mombasa 17/1 Anticipation for examination of defective turbine gearing four days. Further report will be made. (C. in C.E.I. 0532Z/20).
Cargo ship sighted at Mogadiscio. ADRIA.	My 1924/18 (i) N.O.I.C. Kilindini considers this ship to be Italian ADRIA which was believed to have been one of ships refuging in Kismayu. This movement supports a report received 7/1 from most secret source dated 21/12 that "Stores and foodstuffs from ships in Kismayu may shortly be transported to Mogadishu by sea". As fact that one ship has sailed from Kismayu was first observed by air photograph taken 7/1 16 ships having previously been reported on 2/1. There was no ship at Mogadishu on 5/1 and 10/1. (ii) Awaiting reports from A.O.C. Nairobi whether ship reported off Merka was at anchor or under way. As ship was estimated three miles off shore Portuguese East Africa under way and returning to Kismayu. S.A.A.F. unable to bomb on 19/1 further air R.C. expected 20/1. Meanwhile I am holding SYDNEY in readiness for bombardment if ship is found elsewhere than at Kismayu. (C. in C. E.I. 0648Z/20).
FORMIDABLE. Aircraft & A.A. Guns.	Reference Adty. 1320/19 request type and number of aircraft carried by FORMIDABLE. Also A/A armament. (C. in C. E.I. 0730Z/20).
Troop Movement.	Your 2246/18 in view of U.S. 9 requirements and Indian commitments cannot spare any personnel of M.T. ships for this move. (S.S.T.O. India 0835Z/20 to D. of S.T.).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd.).

Your 0730/20. 12 Fulmars and 21 Albacores though a number of these may be unserviceable and it is believed that 2 Fulmars have been lost in current operations.16 -4.5" and six Mark M. pompoms.
(D.N.A.D. 1909/20 to C. in C. E.I.).

Air Operations.

A. 845 20/1. S.A.A.F. on R.C. bombed EL (SIC) (YQBO) and photographed Mogadiscio and Merka.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1237/20).

A. 845 20/1. H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. Operational Summary No. 224 up to 1200 hrs. 20/1.

3. Sudan. Night 15/16 Jan. 1. unidentified enemy aircraft dropped 1 bomb on Port Sudan no damage or casualties. Night 18/19 Jan. 2 Wellesleys and 4 Blenheims attacked searchlights and suspected petrol dump near submarine base (Result).
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1246/20).

Meat Ships.

S.S.T.O. Bombay 13178/20 (Reply to Adty. 2247/18).
See Operations Volume.

A.546 20/1. Bombing 1 Blenheim Assab. Convoy escorts 3 Blenheims.
(A.H.Q. Aden 1742/20).

R.C. of Mogadishu.

As there has recently been movement of shipping on the east coast of Italian Somaliland, SYDNEY is reconnoitring Mogadishu evening/21 with orders to sink any ship seen but keeping outside range of coast defence guns estimated to be 15,000 yards.
(C. in C. E.I. 17302/20).

Troop Movement.

S.S.T.O. Egypt 1845/20 (reply to Adty. 2246/18 and 2247/18).
See Operations Volume.

Convoys, Night escort dispositions.

A.M. 1641/11 paragraph 5(b) and your 1424/17 not to all addressees. Following night escort dispositions in force pending further experience with surface R.D./F.
(D.A/S.W. 2023/20 to C. in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.1.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

H.Q. of C. in C. F.E.	To ensure closest co-operation in arranging to establish H.Q. of C. in C. Far East at Naval Base. (C. in C. China 0501Z/20).
Thai-Indo China relations.	C. in C. China 1149Z/20, 1157Z/20.
Defence policy appreciation.	See. to 1st S.L. 1541/20 to C. in C. China, C. in C. E.I. See Operations Volume.
Thai-French naval action.	Thai losses were two destroyers sunk with their crew and damage to coast defence last night. French state they sustained no damage or casualties. (C. in C. China 1159Z/20).

America & West Indies.

Convoy H.X. 104.	Intend to sail RAJPUTANA SPIKENARD ARROWHEAD EYEBRIGHT as ocean escort to H.X. 104. RAJPUTANA subsequently returning to Halifax. Corvettes instructed to proceed to Clyde with that portion of convoy in absence of other instructions. (F.O. 3B.S. 1144/20).
S.S. JAVANESE PRINCE.	Re sailing, special passengers, possibility of loading aeroplanes. (N.C.S.O. New York 1752/20).
U.S.A. Bases.	A.C.N.S.(H) 1804/20.
DIOMEDE.	My 1701/19. Owing to engine defects DIOMEDE will take place of DESPATCH. DIOMEDE is to leave Bermuda 24/1 for Kingston Jamaica. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1631/20).

/Communications.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Communications between France and possessions.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1809/20)

Japanese ships discharging crews.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1711/20 in reply to S.O.(I) Wellington 2128/16.

Explosions near PATELLA.

Trinidad states Master British Oiler PATELLA reports 0808/17 Sombrero Light bearing 091° 10 miles ship violently shaken as if by depth charges exploding close to vessel. No ship in sight at the time.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 2256/20).

Use of D/F.

A.M. 1745/31/12/40 in view of raider activity it is for consideration whether this use of D/F should be discontinued. Request your comments on proposals that the transmission should be discontinued (a) entirely or (b) after the joining up of the Halifax and Bermuda sections.
(D.T.D. 2321/20 to R.A. 3, C.O.A.C. Halifax).

Australia & New Zealand.

U.S. 9. CANBERRA to escort.

Your 1452Z/16 CANBERRA will escort U.S.9 to Colombo.
(N.O. Melbourne 0547Z/20 to C. in C.E.I).

Undertakings not to serve during remainder of the war.

A leading Seaman R.N.V.R. 4 (N.Z.). serving as gunlayer in RANGITANE was released from enemy Raider after signing following statement.

Request Adty Policy.
(N.Z.N.B. 0558/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GALILE. — 18/1 departure for Marseilles. (Vallencia 2040/20).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ADRIA. — C. in C.E.I. 0648Z/20 see East Indies.

CORTELAZZO. — Departed Dairen 19/1. (C.O.S. Singapore 1022Z/20).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

D'ARTAGAN.
KHAI-DINH. — Departure 20/1. both for Manila. (N.C.S.O. Saigon 0813Z/20).

MAURIENNE. — Departure Motor Ship MAURIENNE Bermuda 23/1. (Nassau 1658/20).

MENDOZA. — ASTURIAS +1530/18 now received amend r.v. in my +2233/19 to read 23° 40'S. 034°30'W. (C. in C.S.A. 1315N/20 to DORSETSHIRE, ASTURIAS).

Between Montevideo and point of interception master of MENDOZA abandoned his neutral status by 4 time reporting enclair position of one of H.M. ships.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1715/20).

My 1535/16 reported French naval forces will attempt to retake MENDOZA at sea if she is proceeding to Freetown area A one.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1735/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

EUMAEUS.
(Torpedoed 41/1)

My 1729/14 and 2321/15. On sighting submarine on surface at dawn about 0540 EUMAEUS turned away at full speed. Gun duel lasting about an hour followed. Range 1500 to 3000 yards. Submarine used both her two guns about 4 inch and machine gun and EUMAEUS was hit and badly damaged including hits below the water line. Chinese firemen left boilers at first shot and steam began to go back. Party from naval draft organised to keep steam but bunkers were subsequently damaged and prevented stoking of forward furnaces. Speed gradually reduced from 12 to 5 knots. At 0730 after all 4.7 inch ammunition expended master of EUMAEUS signalled to enemy he intended to abandon ship but submarine continued to fire and casualties were incurred by naval draft preparing boats. Ship stopped at 0800 and submarine closed on surface and torpedoed ship which sank about 0830. From preliminary investigation it appears that behaviour of naval draft was excellent. Submarine considered to be probably Italian. No hits were obtained on the submarine.
(C. in C.S.A. 1155N/20).

ZEALANDIC.
OROPESA.
ALMEDA STAR.
EMPIRE SCOUT.

ZEALANDIC torpedoed 58° 28'N. 20°43'W. at 2249/16.
OROPESA torpedoed 56° 30'N. 11° 46'W. at 0317/16.
ALMEDA STAR torpedoed 58° 16'N. 13° 40'W. at 0553/17.
EMPIRE SCOUT 50° 58'N. 27° 22'W. gunned 2003/16. First three SSSS calls forth RRRR call.
Above taken from W/T log book of HIGHLAND BRIGADE.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1230/20).

OROPESA.

Reports as follows begins:- Reached spot OROPESA (corrupt groups) found no survivors. (corrupt group) arrived on spot Saturday daylight searched vicinity all day assisted by a seaplane without result. Proceeded to assist MEANDROS and ONABA searching all day Sunday, nothing found. Steamed over thousand miles encountered severe weather conditions just anchored Loch Indail, Islay; steering gear damaged by accident temporarily unfit for Duty North Atlantic, but can return to harbour tomorrow without assistance.
(THAMES 1800/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked. (contd).

ALMEDA STAR.
(torpedoed 7/1)

Your 0902/20 and my 1247/19. Continue search for as long as you consider desirable.
(C. in C. H.F. 1246/20 to D.6).

S.S.THELMA.

S.S.THELMA attacked by submarine 40° N. 18° 45'W.
(Valentia Radio 1137/20).

DE THELMA fighting with submarine 50° N. 18° 45'W. Help.

Progeed to THELMA torpedoed in position 050° 00'N. 018° 45'W. at 1230.
C. in C.W.A. 1303/20 to LA MALOUINE).

NICOLAOS FILINIS.
Greek.

I D. Form S.A.
3. 2100/15/1. 53° N. 24° W. Approx.
6. Submerged. 7. Damaged. 9. Appear to be of the ERICO TASSOLI Class.
10. Torpedoed then gun fired. Ships boat capsized when abandoning ship.
(N.C.S.O. Londonderry 1730/20).

Submarines Reported.

1818/19.

U-Boat reported in position 055° 21'N. 005° 59'W. at 1818.
(C. in C. W.A. 0013/20).

My 2157. Airman reports he is quite certain it was a submarine.
(C. in C. W.A. to HESPERUS, ARROW, PICOTTEE, FLEUR DE LYS, BURNBANKS, YORK CITY).

2237/19. G.M.T.

Following bearings of an Italian U-boat were obtained at 2237/19 G.M.T.

/0600.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

0600 — B.C. L/s Palmas 0940/20 see North Atlantic.

1355 — 53° N. 18° W. at 1355/20 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1607/20).

1806. — By D/F at 1806/20 G.M.T. position of probable German U-Boat was approximately 230 miles Westward of Cape Finisterre.
(D.D.I.C.1950/20).

2001. — An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a large formation in approx. 52° 53° N. 20° 22° W.
(D.D.I.C. 2001/20).

Estimated U/B Dispositions.

German.
One near Cape Verde Islands.
Five between 50°N. and 60° N. and West of 20° W, one of which was about 60° N, & 25° W. at 1158/20.
One probably in 58 54'N. 18 08'W. at 0645/20.
One near 55° N, 16°W. at 1417/19.
One probably to N.E. and one to S.E. of Rockall within 125 miles.
One may be in area North of Bloody Foreland.

Italian.
One near Canary Is. probably returning to Gironde.
One off Portuguese coast outward bound.
Fove of six to south and S.W. of Rockall as far West as 23° W. and North of 53°N.
(D.D.I.C. 1300/20).

Submarines attacked.

1155/19. by FLEUR DE LYS. — Your 2105/19 which has been passed to C. in C. W.A. Hunt is to continue until broken off by C. in C. W.A.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0005/20 to ARROW).

Your 0015/20 continue to hunt until further orders. N.O.i/c Liverpool is being informed.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0250/20 to PICOTEE).

/By.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines attacked. (contd).

By LEGION
0645.

Search for ZEALANDIC abandoned 2000/19
Have attacked firm submarine contact estimated position 058° (?054')N. (?018° or 032°). 08"W. Percentage oil fuel remaining 32. Intend searching for four hours before proceeding Scapa.
(LEGION 0645Z/20 to R.A.(D) H.F).

LEGION reports in contact with submarine in position 058° 54'N. 018° 08'W. at 0645.
(C. in C.W.A. 1003/20).

By Capt D.6.
(SOMALI)
0700

Submarine sighted 0700 G.M.T. in estimated position 059° 40'N. 017° 52'W. First attack unsuccessful search is being continued. 6572.
(Capt D.6. 0902/20).

My 0902 37% fuel remaining intend abandoning search and returning to Scapa.
(Capt D.6. 1330/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Merchant Shipping.

The tonnage of damaged merchant ships under repair or awaiting repair amounts to over 1,000,000 tons.
Bad weather today caused some dislocation of convoys.

U-boat Campaign.

It is reported today that the Norwegian S.S. BRASK and Greek S.S. NEMEA were torpedoed on 15/1 west of Ireland, not far from the position where S.S. NICOLAOS FILINIS was torpedoed on the same day.

British Air Activity.

Bad weather caused most of the routine patrols to be cancelled today. Patrols were flown, however, from Stavanger to Stadlandet and a R.C. from Trondheim to Narvik. Two new patrols were flown to S.W. of the Faroes.

Enemy Air Activity.

In the N.W. Approaches S.S. TEMPLE MEAD was bombed and damaged today and rescue tug ENGLISHMAN was attacked but no damage is reported. (Consequent on this attack C.in C. W.A. on 23/1 ordered kites to be fitted in rescue tugs, and flown when West of 7° W.) S.S. TREGARTHEN arrived at Oban today damaged by bombs as the result of an attack yesterday.
LL trawlers were unsuccessfully attacked by cannon gun off Harwich today and drove off the attacker, a large four engine aircraft.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary off Harwich and Milford Haven. Watchet (Bristol Channel) was reopened this afternoon.

Operations Against Vichy French.

S.O. Force K is sending the Vichy French ship JEAN L.D. into Capetown under armed guard.

South Atlantic.

Raider report. D.F. bearings at 2117Z/19 indicated a probable German surface unit or possibly U-boat within 100 miles of a line joining Monrovia to the Equator at 11° W. A further bearing 24 hours later indicated the probability that this unit had moved to within 150 miles of 2° S. 80° W. DELHI left Freetown at 1000 today to investigate.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Tobruk.

The attack on Tobruk commenced today. TERROR and gunboats last night carried out bombardment preliminary to the attack. Bad weather prevented earlier bombardment. Destroyers and REGENT patrolled to westward of Tobruk, to prevent enemy communications.
Wellingtons last night dropped 28,750 lbs of bombs on the Tobruk defended area as preliminary to assault.
54,000 lbs. of bombs were dropped today.
SAN GIORGIO (Coast defence vessel) is reported to have been hit.

Malta bombed.

Early this morning several enemy aircraft passed over Malta individually and dropped bombs indiscriminately in the sea and 7 places on the island. The target appeared to be Luqa, but was not located. No damage to Govt. property was caused.

ILLUSTRIOUS

The movements of the various units required for the operation of escorting and covering the damaged ILLUSTRIOUS from Malta to Alexandria commenced today. (See 23/1).

Australia.

There is a report today of ammunition and stores being unloaded in the Japanese mandated islands, and that German raiders are believed to be in the Western Carolines.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Repair of M/V's. Proposed.

At a recent Admiralty conference it was suggested that it might soon be necessary to take men off work on H.M. Ships in order to expedite the repair of damaged merchant ships which now amount to over 1,000,000 tons. I recommend that men should for preference be taken off the construction of new merchant ships, for the following reason.

It would seem desirable therefore to proceed with all new ships that are more than half completed while holding up, where necessary, those that are less than half ready.
(C. in C. Nore 1020/21 to Adty).

French Chasseurs.

Owing to the congestion of work in dock-yards it has been decided that French Chasseurs shall not be taken in hand for major alterations but shall be employed n their present state for whatever purpose C. in C's consider them suitable.
(Vice Controller 1219/21).

A/P Trawlers for Shetlands

SOAP. Leith's 1120/21 to C. in C. Rosyth. Regret no more A/P Trawlers from Rosyth Command are at present available to send to Shetlands.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1922/21).

Invasion. Employment of Capital Ships.

Questionnaire in Home Fleet Letter 51/H.F. 01201 A/13 of 14/1 is to be considered at a meeting to be held at Admiralty on 24/1 to discuss employment of Capital ships in the North Sea in case of invasion. Request you will send representative.
(Head of M. 1925/21 to C. in C. Portsmouth.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/21 (D.C. 1201/21).
At 2330/21 (D.C. 2355/21).

Invasion Exercise VICTOR.

Adty 2335/15, para. 2. All Signals from Naval Authorities to begin and end with EXERCISE VICTOR in plain language. (D.O.D.H. 1736/21).

Possible second Blockship at Folkestone.

Consideration is being given to the value of placing second blockship at Folkestone.
Information is requested as to the likelihood of a suitable ship about 400 feet long being available for this purpose. (V.A. Dover 1834/21 to Adty).

Iceland communications.

G.O.C. Iceland Force 1851/21, W.O. 1515/21.

Movements.

AURORA, ESCAPADE, ECHO, ELECTRA, ECLIPSE.

Arrived Scapa 0845. (A.C.O.S. 0903/21).

IMPULSIVE. }
INTREPID. }
SEALION. }

A.M. 1044/21. Proceed to Humber P.M. today to comply with para. 1. (C. in C. Rosyth 1237/21 to IMPULSIVE). My 1245/20. Humber still closed. Sailing of INTREPID cancelled (F.O.Humber 1440/21 to D.20). F.O. Humber 1440/21. Propose para 3. of ALM/O.D. 2008/41 be amended as follows:. A. and B. to read 24/1. C. INTREPID and IMPULSIVE convert and load on 22/1 and 23/1, and sail PM/23 to carry out Intercommunication Exercise on 24/1, proceeding to Scapa on completion. (D.20. 1530/21 to Adty) Cancel my 1707/20. My 1333/19 (re. INTREPID and SEALION) Sailings postponed until further notice. (S.6. 1957/21 to C. in C. Rosyth).

/MOOLTAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.(contd).

MOOLTAN. My 1758/17. Request MOOLTAN escorted by WHITSHED may arrive Shipwash L.V. at 0800/24. Speed should then be reduced to 10 kbots. HARRIER and GOSSAMER have been ordered to be at Sunk L.V. at daylight to commence sweep of Northern side of Q.Z.S. 202, 195 and Yantlet dredged channel as far as No. 4 Sea Reach buoy.

Speed of sweep is 8 knots.

F.O.i/c London is requested to arrange for any tugs considered necessary to meet MOOLTAN at Nore L.V. at 1200/24. Fighter protection will be asked for from daylight /24.
(C. in C. Nore 1516/21 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Your 1727/20. Thames Pilot will leave tonight (D.S.T. 2042/21 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

VICEROY. (A/A Destroyer) Your 1622/20. VICEROY should proceed as in my 1751/4.
(D.O.D.H. 1755/21 to WESTERN ISLES).

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1931/21).

EREBUS. Intend to sail EREBUS to Harwich at 1030/24. Ship is required to carry out certain trails from Harwich as soon as suitable weather conditions occur. Programme of trials is to be arranged between F.O.i/c Harwich and C.O. of EREBUS. On completion of trials EREBUS will return to Sheerness.
(C. in C. Nore 2220/21 to EREBUS).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Channel) Patrol.)	KASHMIR, JUPITER arrived Plymouth 1000/20. (C. in C.W.A. 0035/21).
Operation SPECIMEN.	Sailed PEGASUS as by your 1103/20. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0937/21 to C. in C.W.A).
MINNIE DE LARRINAGA.	My 1410/20. Operation postponed owing to unsuitable weather. (C. in C. Nore 1026/21 to V.A. Dover) Next suitable date are 3rd to 7th February inclusive. (V.A. Dover 1553/21 to C. in C. Nore).
P.W.2.	Is to be carried out as soon as weather is suitable. (C. in C. Nore 1057/21 to BEEHIVE and 1100/21 to Adty).
P.W.3.	My 1440/8 to Admiralty. On further consideration P.W. 3 is not considered practicable at any rate in the winter for following reasons:-. (a) The distance involved. (b) Navigational difficulties in locating position due to length of D.R. Run. Also experience shows necessity for very calm weather for these operations. As material used in P.W. one was possibly defective, propose to repeat this operation on a line southeast from No. 2 E. buoy and also, if you consider it desirable, on a line W.N.W. from No. 1 E. Buoy. (C. in C. Nore 1100/21 to Adty).
Operation RUBBLE.	(D.N.I. 1844/21 to N.A. Stockholm). (N.A. Stockholm 2233/21 to Adty). See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

UNDAUNTED.) MINERVE.)	Sailed, escorted by WHITE BEAR, as by S.3's 1119/9. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0844/21).
TRIBUNE.	Sailed, escorted by LA MOQUEUSE, as by S.2's 1008/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0900/21).
TORBAY.	Sailed 1010 from Sheerness, escorted by GARTH (C. in C. Nore 1136/21 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).
TUNA.	To leave Patrol after dark/20/2 as routed by S.2. (F.O.S. 1156/21).
Azores Patrol.	S.8 is requested to indicate his intentions to all Authorities concerned for maintaining the Azores patrol from 21/2. It is considered PANDORA should be first submarine to leave U.K. F.O.S. will route submarine from U.K. to Azores passing to Eastward of San Miguel. (F.O.S. 1156/21 to S.2. S.8.).
Positions.	For 24 hours after 0800/22 (F.O.S. 1606/21 and 1836/21).
MAIDSTONE.) TITANIA.)	Following redistribution of S/M Depot Ships has been approved by Adty. (F.O.S. 1752/21);
O.23.	Passes Bell Rock 1730. Route to Patrol within 20 miles of 61° N. 3° 50'E. (S.9. 1717/21 to S/M's Area A.).
H.32.	My 1205/18 and 1858/18. Sailing delayed till arrival of VIRGINIA. (S.7. 0919/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Narvik-Trondheim R/C Patrol took off at 0241/21.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0248/21 to C. in C.H.F.).

UNST cancelled for todsy. STAB in operation now.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0908/21 to C. in C. H.F. and to Adty. Recd. 1009/21).

BERT now in operation
(C. in C. Rosyth 1142/21 to C, in C. H.F.).

In view of Adty 1119/21, HORNLI being flown P.M. today.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1220/21 to C. in C. H.F).

My 1220. HORNLI cancelled owing to weather; but a Second Sortie of STAND is being flown to be over Norwegian Coast about dusk.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1438/21 to C. in C. H.F).

My 1142. Patrol IPOP cancelled.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1530/21 to C. in C.H.F).

My 1438. STAND cancelled. A/C forced to return by icing conditions.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1546/21 to C. in C.H.F).

Loch Ewe.

I understand Loch Ewe is shortly to be made a gun defended area and I suggest it is desirable to restrict aircraft, except fighters in pursuit of the enemy, from flying over the area now in accordance with S.D. 158 (1) Para 9.
(A.C.O.S. 1156/21 to Adty).

Lorient.

A.P. 777/21/1. 217 Sqdn to attack tonight U-Boats and Naval Dockyard at Lorient. (H.Q.C.C. 1235/21 to 15 Group, St. Eval).

Suspected)
Sabotage)

Your 1619/13. Report of circumstances to be forwarded. Signal if any persons have moved as follows. (R.A.N.A.S. 1349/21 to St. Merryn).

Striking Force at Hatston.

Your 1304/20. See my 2059/6. Six aircraft of 825 Squadron are under orders to embark in a carrier shortly. 42 (Beaufort) Squadron is available at Wick as a striking force. It is assumed that this can be placed at your disposal by 18 Group at short notice.
(5th S.L. 1851/21 to A.C.O.S.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

HEEMSKERK.
(bombed 20/1)

Vessel 10,000 Tons apparently abandoned in position given HEEMSKERK. Floating well. Standing by till daylight.
ARBUTUS 0128/21 to C. in C. W.A).

Proceed to assist ENGLISHMAN with HEEMSKERK DELPHINIUM standing by. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0312/21 to ASSURANCE).

My 0128. Ship believed HEEMSKERK sank suddenly at 0515. Has crew been picked up.
ARBUTUS 0537/21 to C. in C. W.A).

HEEMSKERK bulkhead given way and Ship sunk. Tugs no longer required.
(DELPHINIUM 1200/21 to ENGLISHMAN, ASSURANCE)

TEMPLE MEAD.

(British 4427 Tons) Bombed (Port Patrick Radio 0944/21). Bombed in 54° 14'N. 14° 30'W. Hit in Engine-Room. Preparing to abandon ship at 1000/21. (Valentia Radio 1105/21).

Proceed to assist (C. in C. W.A. 1115/21 to ARBUTUS) (C. in C. W.A. 1457/21 to DELPHINIUM).

Have 9 survivors of TEMPLE MEAD. Have made thorough search of area. Am proceeding Greenock. (CAMELIA 1920/21 to C. in C. W.A.).

ENGLISHMAN.

(Rescue Tug) Attacked by A/C. 40 miles. West of Tory Island.
(Port Patrick Radio 1028/21).

Harwich.
M/S Trawlers
Attacked.

At 1034/21 in vicinity Rough buoy "LL" trawlers were attacked by large four engined enemy aircraft with cannon gun. Trawlers replied with 6 rounds each of 12 pdr. and plane made off to Eastward.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1410/21 to Adty).

TREGARTHEN.

(British, 5201 Tons) Arrived Oban damaged by Bombs. Seaworthy. One casualty landed. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1428/21 to C. in C.W.A)

/ANDONI.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

ANDONI. (British 678 Tons) Damaged in Air-Raid at Swansea on 13/1. (D.S. 505).

NORVIK. (Panamanian Tanker, 9555 Tons) Damaged 17/1 in Air-Raid at Swansea. (D.S. 505).

Mining.

Thames Estuary. 2 Red Mines detonated. One at 0410/21 in 247° 1.3 miles from B.2 Buoy and one at 0425/21 in 208° 1 cable from East Spile Buoy (Capt M/S Sheerness 0947/21).

IMPULSIVE.
TEVIOT BANK.
Operation
B.S. 50.

1. IMPULSIVE is required to arrive Humber not later than A.M./22 to convert for minelaying.

2. In view of probable further delay in carrying out operation B.S. 50 request you will consider provision of local escort for TEVIOT BANK, sailing her for Humber in convoy after completion of BS. 50 Delay in latter operation can be accepted.
(D.O.D. H. 1044/21 to C. in C. Rosyth).

A.M. 1044/21. Intend to employ WITHERINGTON now on passage Londonderry - Humber and expected Rosyth 0845/22 as escort for TEVIOT BANK both vessels proceeding Humber on completion of the operation. This will take place at first suitable opportunity.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1251/21 and 1437/21 to Adty).

Harwich. Red Mine detonated at 1105 in 51° 55' 37" N. 1° 21' 8"E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1431/21).

Bristol Channel. My 1647/19. Ships may now enter and leave Watchet Precautions. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1451/21).

Milford Haven. 4 Mines detonated at 1330/21, 1406/21, 1443/21 and 1521/21 respectively in following positions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1829/21 to Adty).

Approaches to Skagerrack. C in C.H.F. 51/HF.01201 A.13 of 14/1/41. It would be appreciated if a Destroyer would carry out an Exploratory Sweep in Area 56° 40'N., 57° 10'N. 4°E., 6° E.
(F.O.S. 1307/21 to C. in C.H.F).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

2 Cruisers in Skagerrack on 29/12.

Report (B.2) and N.I.D. Comment. (N.A. Stockholm 1047/21 and 1101/21 to Adty).

Enemy in Heligoland Blight.

From W.T.I. there is a possibility that German units, type unknown, may be moving northwards between Heligoland and Bergen area this morning. (D.D.I.C. 1119/21).

My 1119/21. From W.T.I. movements in Bergen Area continue. (D.D.I.C. 1946/21).

Unidentified Ships.

Following have not been identified. One small slow vessel bearing 250° 6 miles course 155° at 1912/20. One small slow vessel bearing 218° 8½ miles course 180° at 1942/20. One small slow vessel bearing 155° 8 miles course 075° at 2040/20. One small slow vessel bearing 146° 9 miles course 115° at 2100/20. All from Sumburgh. (A.C.O.S. 1155/21 to Adty).

Raiders Fitting out.

My 1559/13/12.
1. TARONGA now due completion at Akers Yard for raiding. 1/2.

2. It now appears that previous reference second sentence Wilhelmsen vessels being armed may well have reffered to TARONGA. Present evidence infers that only one vessel is being fitted out. B. two. (N.A. Stockholm. 1703/21).

Miscellaneous.

Replacement of Shipwash and Sunk Light Vessels.

It is understood that Trinity House intend to remove the Shipwash and Sunk Light Vessels. Request the former may be replaced by a light float with light visibility 4 miles and the latter by light and bell buoy with light visibility 2=1/2 miles.

It is considered undesirable to have a light float whose light cannot be controlled in the swept channel itself in this area. (C. in C. Nore 1750/21 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Loading at Oban.

Your 1442/19. Priority should be in following order (1) Cargo liners, (2) Tankers, (3) Ships which will load grain or steel overseas.
(D.T.D. 1548/21 to N.C.S.O. Oban).

Coastal Convoys.

O.B.C. 276.

Ships Following did not sail.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0337/21).

0300/21. ANTELOPE ANTHONY HEATHER ORCHIS ARAB LADY-MADELEINE 9.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0340/21).

F.N. 89.
F.S. 92.
F.S. 93.

SHELDRAKE and PUFFIN are to form additional escort for F.N. 89 21/1. On reaching the Outer Dowsing. SHELDRAKE join F.S. 92 and PUFFIN enter the Humber. F.O.I.C. Humber is requested to sail PUFFIN 23/1 to form additional escort for F.S. 93 from the Outer Dowsing to South Shipwash Buoy thence returning to Harwich.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0814/21).

E.N. 60.
W.N. 73.

Act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 60 sailing at 2200/21. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail JASON to join W.N. 73 due Duncansby Head 1030/24. Code word for E.N. 60 PADDLE and W.N. 73 RUSTY.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0909/21).

F.N. 88.

Arrived 0730/21. (One ship).
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0925/21).

O.B.C. 276.

My 0340/21. Add "2 with kites".
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0947/21).

F.S. 92.

Owing to weather F.S. 92 will be sailed not from Methil but from Tyne at 1230/22 as a 7 knot Convoy E.T.A. Outer Dowsing 0930/23 and Southend 1400/24.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1115/21).

AYRSHIRE
O.B.276.

My 1023 proceed to join O.B. 276.
(C. in C. W.A. 1125/21 to AYRSHIRE).

C.E. 23.

My 1500/20. C.E. 23 postponed 24 hours and will now leave St. Helens 1700/23.
(C. in C. Nore 1138/21).

O.B. 276.

Sailed 0900/21. 14 Ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1138/21).

/F.S. 91.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
contd.

F.S. 91. F.S. 92. F.N. 89.	F.S. 91 arrived Barrow Deep PM/21 Anchors for night proceeding Southend daylight/22. F.S. 92 due Outer Dowsing 1800/21. F.N. 89 due Aldeburgh L.F. 1930/21. (C. in C. Nore 1200/21).
W.N. 72 (O).	W.N. 72 (O) No ships sailed. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1301/21).
O.B. 276.	My 1637/20 should have been headed 'O.B. 276'. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1305/21).
F.N. 89.	1010/21 49 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1424/21).
F.N. 86. F.N. 87. F.N. 88.	Tyne ships arrived except BIRTLEY reported ashore. Tyne ships arrived also all Blyth ships in Tyne except ARA (Nor). Sunderland, Seaham, Tyne and Blyth ships all arrived Tyne. Non-arrival BONNINGTON COURT reported sunk. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1532/21).
F.N. 89.	Ships and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1548/21).
W.N. 72. E.N. 62. Escorts.	Only trawler escort for W.N. 72 is INDIAN STAR PIROUETTE will be retained to pair with INDIAN STAR for E.N. 62. (C. in C. Rosyth 1559/21).
E.N. 60.	My 1955/20. Amended sailing time 1700/21. Cancel PIROUETTE. If convoy arrives too early at Duncansby Head it will proceed by Fair Isle Channel. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1601/21).
12 M.V's.	Intend sailing 1630/22 twelve merchant ships for Hartland Gap and Bristol Channel Ports escort SAINT CATHAN and PEARL maximum speed of groun 7 knots in channel. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1621/21).
W.N. 71.	Arrived 1615/21. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1622/21).

/F.S. 92.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.S. 92.	My 1200/21 delete reference to F.S. 92. (C. in C. Nore 1725/21).
E.N. 60.	Sailing cancelled owing to weather. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1748/21).
O.B.M. 277.	1807/21. LEEDS UNITED. Two One with kite. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1810/21).
E.N. 60.	Postponed 24 hours due to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1820/21).
F.S. 92.	My 0814/21. F.S. 92 delayed, SHELDRAKE proceed into Humber. F.O.I.C. Humber is requested to sail SHELDRAKE so as to join F.S. 92 off the Outher Dowsing. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1822/21)
O.B. 276.	Sailed HEATHER to overtake Convoy O.B. 276. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1910/21).
E.N. 60. F.S. 93.	My 1537/21. Cancel sailing IMPULSIVE E.N. 60 and F.S. 93. (C. in C. Rosyth 1936/21).
? O.B. 276.	Oban portion located position 065° I T H 24 am steering 294° 6 knots during the night. (ANTHONY 2217/21).
W.N. 72.	058° N. 8 knots. (INDIAN STAR 2230/21).

Ocean Convoys.

O.G. 50.	Convoy sailing telegram O.G. 50 (9) and (12). (C. in C. W.A. 0109/21).

/B.H.X. 104.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(Contd).

B.H.X. 104.

Convoy BHX 104 consisting of 38 ships including 28 tankers sails from Bermuda. (date, speed, route). to R.V. with A/S escort in (position date). Ocean escort ALAUNIA.

2. C. in C. A. W.I. should inform KING GEORGE V of time of sailing of convoy.

3. After refuelling, KING GEORGE V is to proceed to afford this convoy additional escort, joing the convoy during daylight hours on (date) and breaking off in (position).
(V.C.N.S. 1024/21).

S.L. 61.

Unless directed otherwise intend altering course of S.L. 61 to 070° at 1700.
(VETERAN 1318/21 to C. in C. W.A).

Your 1457/21. CAMELLIA despatched 1345 and probably now in contact. Consider DELPHINUM should rejoin S.L. 61. VETERAN probably able to remain with convoy till noon 22nd, altering course to 070° at 1700.
(VETERAN 1607/21).

H.X. 101.

Following ships arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1723/21).

S.L. 61.

Cancel my 1457 rejoin convoy S.L. 61.
(C. in C. W.A. 1925/21 to DELPHINIUM).

? S.L. S. 61.
or H.G. 50.

Not met. Suppose track convoy base on 2000/21 situation reported was crossed at 1300/21. Visibility extreme. 53° 16' 18° 28'.
(SHIKARI 2001/21).

Troop Convoys.

W.S. 6.

34 Ships. Ready to sail from U.K. (date). Speed of slowest ship 11½ knots. Ocean Escort. Ships should be grouped as in Adty. 1642/6. para F. (A.C.N.S. H. 2318/21).

My 2318/21. Ocean Escort, A/A Escort, A/S Escort. C. in C. W.A. requested to sail Ships for Freetown and arrange R/V in accordance with Route to be promulgated by Adty. ? (A.C.N.S. H. 2335/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

D.L. HARPER. — My 1240/20 and my 1500/20. Ship making good speed towards her destination. Cannot keep up with her. Am proceeding Greenock.
(ANGEE 0015/21 to C. in C. W.A.).

WILK. — (Polish S/M) Your 1806/20. Tug BULLDER proceeding.
(N.O.I.C. Leith 0340/21 to C. in C. Rosyth).

CORNISH ROSE. — (British, 471 Tons) Ashore at Oyster Mouth, Swansea. Crew living on board. Expect float spring tide 26/1.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea. 1211/21).

TIERCEL. — (H.M. Yacht) WESTERN ISLES 1622/20. Necessary work will be undertaken on arrival (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1302/21).

YORK CITY. — (A/S Trawler) Arrived for minor repairs.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1355/21).

LEAMINGTON. — Proceeding Londonderry with defects.
(C. in C. W.A. 1615/21 to VETERAN).

BOREAS. — My 1212/20. Should be ready to sail 24/1.
(F.O.I.C. London 1706/21).

IMPULSIVE. — Returned to Rosyth with serious condenser trouble.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1909/21).

BIRTLEY. — (British, 2873 Tons) Reported ashore from Convoy F.N. 86.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1532/21).

THAMES. — (Tug) Arrived at Campbeltown with Steering Gear broken.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1912/21).

/LORD.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. (contd).

LORD LLOYD.	(A/S Trawler) At Aberdeen with defects. (A.C.O.S. 1930/21).
STOKE CITY.	(A/S Trawler) At Tyne, damaged. Due to sail 20/1. (A.C.O.S. 1930/21).
LINCOLN CITY.	(A/S Trawler) At. Aberdeen, delayed by defect. (A.C.O.S. 1930/21).
THOMAS DEAS.	Ashore at Islay sound. Request Motor-Boat from Port Askain. (Port Patrick Radio 1944/21).
KYLEGLEN.	(British, 3670 Tons) Left Oban 9/12, due Baltimore 29/12. Overdue. Presumed lost. (D.S. 505).
EUPHORBIA.	(British, 3380 Tons) Left Milford Haven 7/12, due Lynn, Massachusetts 1/1. Overdue. Presumed lost. (D.S. 505).
JUMNA.	(Norw. 3746 tons) Left Mersey 16/12, due Freetown 4/1. Overdue. Presumed lost. (D.S. 505).
VALPARAISO.	(Swedish, 4979 Tons) Left Halifax, N.S. 18/12. Due Glasgow 4/1. Overdue. Presumed lost. (D.S. 505).
SKARAAS.	(Norw. Tanker 9826 tons). Extensive damage to stem when she rammed TADORNA at Princes Pier, Greenock 16/1, Proceeding to Kiln of Clyde Anchorage. (B.M.S.M. 203, 21/1/41.).

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Attitude towards escorted convoys.

1st. Lord 2133/21. to C. in C. S.A. see Operations Volume.

CANTAL.

Cont. and Gib. 1050/21. see French Merchant Ships.

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

S/M's. Positions 0800/22. (F.O.C.N.A. 1212/4.)

Convoy W.S.5.B. — F.O.C.N.A. 1208/21 to Capt. D.(8) See Operations Volume.

MARAN FOXHOUND. — MARAN proceed 1815 to patrol areas R 3 8 3. FOXHOUND will escort to Spartel then resume patrol. (F.O.C.N.A. 1653/21.)

Air Operations. — A.387. 21/1. No flying carried out owing to weather. (200 Group 1705/21.)

Italian U boat at Las Palmas.

See also South Atlantic.

My 1750/20. (?1750/21 intended)Italian. Submarine is being supplied with Gas Oil Fuel ex drums from breakwater.These drums were filled yesterday and during the night from CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN placed in barge towed to and discharged Woermann Coal Depot thence carted to breakwater for supply to submarine. I will keep you informed expected departure quantity of Oil Fuel taken. (B.C. Las Palmas 1645/21.)

My January 20th Italian Submarine hull damaged forward above waterline reported result of gunfire, repairs being carried out. Captain rumoured to have been killed. 2 crew wounded. (B.C. Las Palmas 1750/21.)

Your 0940/20. Request immediate report (a) whether Italian Submarine has left Las Palmas, (b) if not, on what alleged grounds submarine is being permitted to stay beyond the 24 hours allowed by International Law. (Hd. of M. 1931/21 to H.M.C. Las Palmas.)

/MONARCH.....

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. Contd.

MONARCH OF BERMUDA CAPETOWN CASTLE.

S.O. (I). Gib. 1806/19. FAULKNOR and FORESTER are now escorting MONARCH OF BERMUDA and CAPETOWN CASTLE to Freetown. Request you will signal onward routeing instructions to Capt. (D) 8 in FAULKNOR. Capt. (D) 8 reports delayed by weather and may require fuel at Bathurst. (F.O.C.N.A. 1836/21. to C. in C. S.A.)

IMPERIALIST MARON.

Gibraltar arrival 1830/21. IMPERIALIST to make good d amage and loss of boat(s) (?through) bad weather. Departure 1900 MARON for R 3 and S 3.(S.O.(1) Gib. 1902/21.)

Areas R3,S3.

My 1653. Areas R three S three are bounded by following positions. (F.O.C.N.A. 1932/21 to Ships and Authorities N.A.Station.

Ammunition.

Your 1711/4, 1140/10 and 1337/1, following ammunition embarked. (A) CAPETOWN CASTLE (B) MONARCH OF BERMUDA. (F.O.C.N.A. 2026/21. to Adty.)

South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE'S Aircraft.

Adty. 2227/20. Present position is as follows: Min. for For. Aff. informed H.M. Minister last night Monday that a note would be handed to him during forenoon 21/1 releasing aircraft and fixing 24 hour limit for its departure. No further delay is possible.

Provisional arrangements are made for LYNTON GRANGE to leave Monte Video so as to pick up aircraft during forenoon /22 in a position 35 miles 90° from Lobes Island. (S.O/1.) Monte Video 04322/21. to B.N.A. Buenos Aires.)

/Your 0432/21.....

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Your 0432/21 suggest arrangements for LYNTON GRANGE stand, but unless unexpected circumstances arise, NEWCASTLE will be 35 miles 090 from Lobos by 0800/22, Uruguayan time, and will remain near to recover aircraft. (R.A.S.A.D. 1430Z/21. to S.O.(1) Monte Video.)

VIDETTE — Serious leak developed in lubricating oil system. Am proceeding to Freetown at 14 knots. E.T.A. 1900/22. (VIDETTE 083ON/21.)

WINKFIELD. — Overdue shipping. WINKFIELD due Durban 17/1 from Freetown not arrived. (S.O.(1) Capetown 0955B/21.)(See 22/1.).

Raider Report. — D/F Bearings indicate German surface unit was within 150 miles 012° (± 2°) s.008° w. at 2128Z/20, reliability 50% per cent. Alternative position 015° s. 001° e. reliability 45%.(C. in C.S.A. 0951N/21 to DORSETSHIRE S.O. Force K DELHI.

NORSEMAN. — (Cable ship) Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1058/21.)

D/F bearings at 2117Z/19 indicated probable German surface unit though possibly U-Boat within 100 miles of line, joining Monrovia to Equator 011° W. Further bearing at 2158Z/20 indicates probability that this unit has moved to within 150 miles 2° s. 008° w. DELHI has gone to investigate.(C. in C. S.A. 1335N/21. to R.A.S.A.D., Adty.)

/Departures.....

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Departures 1000/21 DELHI on patrol, 1230 DUNEDIN for Bathurst with military details. (S.O.(1) Freetown 1321/21.)

JEAN L.D. (French).

S.O. Force K 1014Z/21 sec. French Merchant Ships.

Certain coast & A.A. defences proposed.

Your 1108/19. (? 1408/19.) I do not consider that these defences are sufficient.(C. in C. S.A. 1143N/20.)

Italian S/M. at Las Palmas.

Reference Italian Submarine reported at Las Palmas should be interested to know if any information is obtained whether Submarine is damaged and how as two Submarines have been attacked in Freetown Area recently. (C. in C. S.A. 1147/21. to F.O.C.N.A.)

U-boat.

D.D.I.C. 1054/21 to AUSTRALIA see U. boat Campaign.

SOBIESKI
KENYA.

Your 2000/18 SOBIESKI and KENYA have deck cargo of petrol as first supply for landing craft. Propose unless this is likely to be required on passage or on arrival it shall be removed before sailing as adding danger to air attack.(C. in C. S.A. 1247/21. to Adty.)

ALMKERK fired at.

5/1.

Dutch ALMKERK reports when steering 155° at 1520/5 in 040° 46' N. 022° 22' W. strange ship chased and fired one very wide round. Increased to 16.5 knots and escaped in fog. From description ship may be A.M.C. (S.O.(1) Capetown 1216B/21.)

/Southbound.....

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

(D.T.D. 1359/21.)

Southbound Ships crossing 20° north for Plate.

NEWCASTLE's Aircraft.

Your 1421Z/20.
(1) Note received releasing aircraft and granting 24 hours from noon/21.
(2) Cannot ask for further delay.
(3) We are proceeding with the plan to pick up aircraft by LYNTON GRANGE.
(4) In case weather conditions enable us to delay aircraft please signal earliest time ~~of~~ NEWCASTLE can be within range of aircraft giving provisional R.V. for her.
(5) Unwise for NEWCASTLE to visit Monte Video so soon after the incident. Submit she should visit Buenos Aires 24/1. If necessary CUMBERLAND could visit Monte Video instead of Buenos Aires. (6) Pending reply from you application for permission for NEWCASTLE visit is being held over.(S.O.(1) Monte Video 1446Z/21. to R.A.S.A.D.)

S.O.(I). Montevideo's 1445/21. B.N.A. Buenos Aires ask Ambassador to request permission for NEWCASTLE to enter Buenos Aires for 24 hours non fuelling visit picking up RECALADA pilot 0500. (z plus 3) /24/. Request Ambassador's views as to whether my visit to Buenos Aires in CUMBERLAND so soon after will still be quite convenient.

NEWCASTLE Fuel from ARNDALE as arranged 23/1, and r.v. with me in position 35° S. 53° 30' W. at 1800 Z/26. (R.A.S.A.D. 2009Z/21.)

ALBATROSS.

Your 2321/19. Allowance of aircraft explosives for ALBATROSS is equivalent to that of a catapult ship carrying six Walrus aircraft. (D.N.A.D. 1654/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

/FORMIDABLE.....

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

? FORMIDABLE.

My 2235/17. In view of indication of enemy vessels near Cape Freetown route, DRAGON is to sail A.M./22. DEVONSHIRE to follow at 24 knots as soon as ready and join DRAGON. After meeting ships to proceed as in my 2235/17.(C. in C. S.A. 1735N/21.)

Movements of Force K.

Your 2231/19.(not Adty.) Area up to 200 miles North of position in your 2231/19 was searched by Force K on 20th. Force K passed through area given in your 1101 N/20 1100/20 intended on 18th. (S.O. Force K. 1953Z/21. to C. in C. S.A.)

S.S.MURJEK.

N.C.S.O. Santos 1634/20 is passed to you for action as you may consider necessary. Swedish ship MURJEK was reported by N.C.S.O. Santos as due to leave for Gothenburg direct 20/1 having asked for route. Norwegian members in the crew did not wish to return to Sweden and Santos Authorities refused to allow discharge there. Proposal was made to call at Freetown with which is concurred in my 1803/16.(S.O.(1) Freetown 2029N/21.

S.L.63,
S.L.S.63.
NAILSEA LARS
BUR.
C.ARANBORG.
etc.

Convoys S.L.63 and S.L.S.63. NAILSEA LARS returned p.m./19 with engine defects. Norwegian BUR returned a.m./21 unable to maintain speed of convoy. Norwegian C.ARANBORG Engine repairs. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 2047/21.)

Mediterranean.

Air Operations.

Attack on Catania.

I.45 21/1. 7. Wellingtons attacked Catania Aerodrome. Attack lasted from 1850/20 to 2025/20. Total weight of bombs dropped 24,220 lbs.G.P. and 1,920 incendiaries . Practically all dropped in target area. 7 aircraft seen bursting into flames.Fire seen near Cape Passaro. All our aircraft returned undamaged. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 0005/21.)

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

A.849. H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. Operational Summary No. 225 up to 1200 hours 21/1/41.

A.849, H.Q.R.A.F.,M.E. Operational Summary No. 225 up to 1200 hours 21/1/41.

Attacks on Tobruk and Valona.

Night 19/20th 3 Wellingtons and 2 Blenheims dropped 14,230 lbs. of bombs on Tobruk. Day 20/1. Offensive patrols of Hurricanes and Australian Gladiators over Tobruk area encountered no repeat no enemy aircraft. Attack on Tobruk commenced early today our troops entering defended area operations running to schedule. (2) Greece. Night 19/20th Jan. 4 Wellingtons bombed Valona . One Wellington attacked Brindisi railway station. Bombs overshooting target and falling on town. Day 20/1. 5 Blenheims bombed stores dumps at Valona

Piraeus bombed. S.S.VASCO. damaged.

During morning 4 unidentified enemy aircraft followed by 5 Cant Z.1007 bombed Piraeus damaging cargo vessel VASCO.

Heraklion aerodrome bombed.

(3) Crete.
Day 20/1. One Savoia followed later by 3 OR 42's dropped incendiary and small bombs on Heraklion aerodrome causing slight damage. (H.Q. R.A.F.,M.E. 1206/21.)

Malta attacked.

I.47 21/1. Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700/21. All times G.M.T. 0035 to 0215 and 0235 to 0330 several enemy aircraft passed individually over island and dropped bombs indiscriminately. Target appeared to be Luqa but not located and no damage to government property. Bombs fell in sea and 7 separate places on the island. Enemy kept very high to avoid gun fire and searchlights. One Hurricane up. No engagement. 1305 to 1321 R.C. by single enemy aircraft. 1242 to 1530 P.R.U. photographic R.C. Sicilian aerodromes and ports. No Naval or Military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1715/21.)

/Coal.....

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Coal for Greece.

Following telegram sent to Athens, ~~N.C.~~ VC arrivals of ships with coal.(D. of S.T. 0345/21. to S.C.I. Alexandria.)

Operation.

V.A.L.F. 0411/21, C. in C. Med. 0854/2/, 0857/21. ~~Tuesday.~~ See Mediterranean Volume.

Convoy A.S.12.

Convoy A.S. 12 arrived less CLAN CUMMING latter reported to have returned to Piraeus.(N.O.I.C. Port Said 0834/21.)

JAGUAR.

I am holding H.M.S. JAGUAR temporarily in Eastern Mediterranean until situation in Malta is cleared up. She is out of action for few days due to defects. (C. in C. Med. 0859/21 to Adty.)

Your 2101/6. Army very insistant on need for cable to Western Desert. Reasons. (c) Cable will also be needed for Naval traffic in connection with operations of inshore squadrons and with supplies etc. (C. in C. Med. 0955/21. to Adty.)

State of Italian Capital Ships.

Following from Navy Department: by U.S. N.A. Rome from sources stated to be reliable: in air raid on Naples 8/1. CESARE was holed by stern below water line and arrived at Genoa 12/1 for repairs. DORIA is in dry dock at Venice. DUILIO is being repaired at Trieste. CAVOUR is sunk at Taranto. LITTORIA is repairing at Genoa or Taranto probably latter. VENETO is only battleship at present operating. (N.A. Warlington 1014/21.)

Comment by N.I.D. This appears to be a good report. CESARE may have been hit on the stern in this attack. She sailed the following night but her destination is not known. It is quite possible she went to Genoa for repairs as this is her port of building.

/DORIA.....

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FORSIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

DORIA was at Spezia on 21.12. There is no reason to suppose she is damaged and there seems no object in moving her to Venice as she can be docked equally well at Spezia.

CAVOUR. Information correct.

LITTORIO. Was damaged during F.A.A. attack on Taranto and was docked there. She may well have gone to Genoa subsequently for further repairs as she was built there.

DUILIO. Was damaged in the F.A.A. attack on Taranto. No repairs were carried out at the time and she sailed for an unknown destination between 10th and 16th Jan.

VITTORIO VENETO. It is agreed that this ship is undamaged. This signal has been repeated to C.O.I.S. Alexandria and C. in C. Mediterranean and the former's comments asked for.

REGENT. Establish patrol forthwith between Ras Et Tin (Cyrenaica) and Ras Aamer. Object interception of traffic leaving Tobruk. Report if you have less than six torpedoes remaining. (Capt.S.I. 1235/21. to REGENT.)

High Speed Tankers. Your 1525/15. Efforts are being made to obtain 2 such vessels from the United States, but negotiations have not yet been completed. (4th S.L.1339/21 to C. in C. Med.)

S.S. COLD HARBOR. X.446 21/1. American Red Cross is sending the s.s. COLD HARBOR to Spain from Baltimore on 30/1 arriving about 12 to 15/2 and to Marseilles France, due about 19/2. This vessel will carry exclusively supplies for Red Cross distribution in Spain and in unoccupied France.

/2. The COLD.....

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

2. The COLD HARBOR, which is owned by the U.S.Govt., will be marked thus:- (details). She will, of course, be unarmed and moving without convoy. 3. Particulars of the COLD HARBOR are as follows:- 4. Her course will be (details). 5. Take steps to ensure that this vessel is allowed to proceed and return without molestation. (Air Min. 1340/21. to Air Authorities concerned.).

Intelligence of Italian S/M's.

Most Secret source indicates that one Italian submarine will leave Italian waters on the 22nd., a second on the 24th and third, the NARVALO, on the 26/1, to arrive same destination in Dodecanese at dawn on 26/1, 28/1, and 30/1 respectively. Actual destinations unknown but most probable alternatives are Stampalia, Leros or Rhodes (Rodi). The two first mentioned submarines are expected to leave Dodecanese for Italy not later than 1/2 and 3/2, respectively. It is suspected that these submarines are carrying important stores to Dodecanese. (C. in C. Med. 1435/21. to Med. Fleet.)

Lethal gas.

I am informed by reliable source that German gas producing plants must complete their stocks by March 1st. Re: (N.A. Budapest T.H.I. 1445/21.)

BULLFINCH.

A.M. 1356/8/12 and 1711/1/1. Cable ship BULLFINCH has been delayed and is unlikely to arrive in the Mediterranean before the end of April. 40 per cent of her cable has been offloaded and is being freighted. (D.A/S.W. 1647/21. to C. in C. Med.)

/German.....

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

German air-craft in Mediterranean.

Air Ministry think that between 40 and 50 H.E. 111 may be based at Benghazi and/or Rhodes. (D.D.I.C. 1758/21. to C. in C. Med.)

Merchant ships off Apollonia.

Following merchant ships reported anchoring one mile off APOLLONIA 1412 today - 2 of 7000 4 of 5000 2 of 2000. tons. /C.C.(Capt. (S) 1 1931/21 to REGENT.)

Italian Intelligence.

Reported. (?Brindisi) was so damaged in air raid as to be unusable for embarking troops but feverish efforts to repair being made. Bari slightly damaged. Valona chief Albanian port for reinforcements Durazzo mainly used,for evacuation. Tirana is central collecting station for wounded and becoming very congested. Giovanni de Medua being improved hastily for supplies and reinforcements from Ancona and Bari. Saw two large merchant ships at Brindisi very badly damaged. Told one hit 16/12 and other 9/12. Great damage to Genoa by R.A.F. and early in French naval bombardment at harbour stores and electric plant but not to factories. (British Military Mission, Athens. 1950/21.)

T.L.C.'s.

T.L.C's were shipped W.S.5a. as follows. Names and sailing dates of ships carrying remaining T.L.C.'s will be signalled later.(D. of S.T. 2141/21 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

Result of R.C. of Italian aerodromes.

I.48 21/1. Following non (expert?) interpretation photos today. Comiso Palermo Trapani. Catania (48 J.U.87's of which 14 damaged or destroyed. 4 JU.88's. 3 S.79's. 6 BR.20's. 11 Macchi 200's of which 2 damaged or destroyed. 1 S.82.) Interpretation should be treated with reserve. (H.Q.R.A.F. Malta 2200/21.)

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Ammunition.

Adty. 1032/15 can at present only be implemented on E.I.Station by the use of Far Eastern Reserve ammunition now at Trincomalee. Should this be drawn upon taking into consideration the impending relief of "K" destroyer by HUNT class in the Red Sea Force. (C. in C. E.I. 0450/21. to Admty.)

Ships off Merka.

(1) My 0644/20 (my 0642/20 refers) A.O.C. Nairobi reports ship (considered to be Italian ship ADRIA) off Merka on Jan. 18th was under way on a South Westerly course. Speed 10 knots. (2) Air r.c. Kisimayu 20/1 (?revealed) one additional vessel anchored making total 16. I assume this to be the ship referred to in para. (one). (3) Mogadiscio is being reconnoitred by cruiser P.M./21. (C. in C. E.I. 0538Z/21.)

ADRIA.
R.C. Kisimayu and Mogadiscio.

My 0538/21/para. 3. No shipping seen. Nairobi informed. (C. in C. E. I. 1756Z/21, 1758Z/21.)

Kismayu.

C. in C. E.I. 0542Z/21. S.O. Force K 1024Z/21. See Operations Volume.

HINDUSTAN.

Departure 0640Z/21, for Perim Patrol. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0701Z/21.)

GOSEI MARU.

In case GOSEI MARU fails to call at Karachi intend Khor Kuwai Patrol intercepts her in accordance with my 1110/16.(C. in C.E.I. 1054Z/21. to Adty.)

Convoy B.N.F.one.

HECTOR will form force R for troop convoy leaving Bombay 26/1 which will be called B.N.F. one, and will escort to about 050° East. My 1008/23/12. refers.(C. in C. E.I. 1208z/21.)

/W.S.5.B.....

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. Contd.

W.S.5.B. — Your 2247/18 speed W.S.5.B. received here as 11 knots. Request verification or correction. (C. in C. E.I. 1216/21. to D. of S.T.)

B.N.Convoys. — My 1316/18. (1) Intend B.N.14 and B.N.F.1 to leave Aden 1/2. (II) There after B.N. Convoy will leave Aden at 8 day intervals and B.N.F. Convoy at 6 day intervals.

B.N. Convoys. — When any B.N.F. Convoy has to be omitte owing to passage of a U.S. or U.S. Conv the next B.N.F, will leave Aden 6 days after U.S. or U.S. Convoy has passed Aden. (III) To suit ocean escort arrangements troop convoys from Bombay to join B.N. or B.N.F. convoy at Aden may sail from Bombay at not less than 12 day intervals. These convoys will be called by the name of the convoy they will join off Aden as at present. (IV) Northbound convoys will be divert in about 19° N. and escort will then proceed Port Sudan. Escort will leave Port Sudan the next morning to r.v.with southbound convoy as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea. S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area is requested to sail southbound convoys accordingly. (C. in C. E. I. 1226Z/21.

Force K.
Convoy W.S.5A. — Movements. (C. in C. E.I. 1230Z/21.) See Operations Volume.

Operations. — (i) Code name for operation referred t in last sentence is COMPOSITION. (ii) Code name for first operation is BREACH.(C. in C. E.I. 1232Z/21. to S.O. Force K.)

Details of Red Sea Force and Aden Force. — My 0942/14/12. delete LEANDER MOONSTONE add PARVATI to Aden Force (joining shortly).(C. in C. E.I. 1802Z/21.)

Kenya, R.N.V.R. — Your 0746/2 approved. Colonial Office agree. Re removing legal difficulties. (2nd. S.L. 1930/21 to C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Naval bases at Trinidad, and Jamaica.

My 1052/25/9. The Naval Bases at Trinidad and Jamaica, as distinct from the Air Stations, are to be named Benbow and Morgan. The bases will be independent commands with accounts carried out in OOSHAWK and BUZZARD respectively. (Hd. of M. 1752/21. to C. in C. A.W.I.)

NEUVA ANDALUSIA.

Ship named NEUVA ANDALUSIA has sent a radio message to oil company asking permission to enter this Port to load. Oil company has received no orders. Request instructions. Ship does not appear in Lloyds list. (S.N.O. Curacoa 2124/21 to D of S.T.)

Use of D.F. by Convoys.

Your 2321/20 suggest proposal B be adopted for trial but present procedure re-introduced if number of stragglers is appreciably increased. (R.A. 3.B.S. 2137/21 to Adty.)

Convoy B.H.X104.

Left Bermuda (date) (C. in C. A.W.I, 3232/21. to KING GEORGE V.

Australia & New Zealand.

Equipment for raiders in Japanese Mandated Islands.

Caroline Islander in Japanese ship which arrived Rabaul 15/1 from Japanese mandates reports number of large ships unloading ammunition and stores at Saipan and Tinian. Naval guns mounted. Submarine and bomber aircraft sighted. Increased activity at Truk and Ponape. One large gun mounted at Ponape. German raiders not seen but believed to be in Western Carolines. (A.C.N.B.Melbourne 0223/21.)

Undertakings not to serve during remainder of the war.

My 0558Z/20 13 F.A.A. new entries also signed statement. Matter has also been raised by N.Z. Gov. in Tel. to Dominions Office No. 20 of 20/1. (N.Z.N.B. 2312Z/21.)

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

JAVANESE PRINCE.	Your 1752/20. If destination is London vessel should be routed to Loch Ewe. (D.T.D. 1027/23. to B.C. New York.)
State of Italian Capital Ships.	N.A. Washington 1014/21. See. Mediterranean
SAN FRANCISCO.	My 1711/20. SAN FRANCISCO now reports arms were in manifest on vessels arrival there consigned to Bolivian Government and U.S. authorities believe shipment bona fide. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1049/21.)
	My 1752/20 aeroplanes will be carried on JAVANESE PRINCE destination therefore Liverpool due. (date) (N.C.S.O. New York. 1711/21.)
Convoy B.H.X.104.	Convoy sailing telegram 9 10 12. (Bermuda 1429/21.)
	Bermuda departure ALAUNIA escorting BHX.104V. on completion escort duty ALAUNIA will proceed Halifax through 39N. 49W. (C. in C. A.W.I.1500/21.)
H.X.104.	Sailing telegram 9,10,12 (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1583/21.)
H.X.105.	Advance Sailing Telegram. (S.C.N.O. Halifax N.S.1631/21.)
Action taken by LACONIA on sighting of shadower.	Your 1845/14. LACONIA considered it his duty to remain close to his convoy until supposed enemy opened fire in case there should be another raider near. Report follows. (R.A.3.B.S.1738/21.)

/Naval.....

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Japanese ships entering a British port.

Your 0811/9 the matter raised in your 0531/1/12, was intended to be covered by F.O. tel. of the 26/12. to Ambassador Tokyo sent to you as No. 84. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1146/21. to C. in C. China.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.1.1941.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN	Supplying oil fuel to Italian S/M at Las Palmas. See North Atlantic.
ITHAKA	Left Batoum for Russian port (V.C. Varne 1725/20)
DRESDEN BABITONGA	SANTOS reports. DRESDEN has taken on board 86 drums of oil type unknown and 30 cases of lubricating oil. BABITONGA has loaded 75 drums of oil type unknown ends. (N.S.O. (1) Montevideo 2134/Z/21)
TARONGA	See Enemy Intelligence

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MAYA	Arrived from Batoum tanker MAYA with cargo 5,000 tons of gas oil. (V.C. Varna 1748/21)
ADRIA	See East Indies.
FRANCESCA MADRE TRIPOLITANIA G. GHIRARDI	Arrived from Batoum FRANCESCA MADRE and TRIPOLITANIA with cargoes gas oil departure IBOT GUISEPPINA GHIRARDI for Constantza (V.C. Varna 1725/20)
NUMIDIA	Susak sailed 21/1 NUMIDIA in ballast for Trieste. (Susak 2000/21)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

JEAN L. D.	Vichy French ship JEAN L.D. is being sent to Capetown under armed guard. Bound (? Barcelona) to Madagascar. Cargo small quantity of (? essences) and wine. (S.O. Force K., 1014Z/21) Amended to Simonstown, not Capetown. (see 22/1)
CANTAL	Weight of total cargo (Conband Gib. 1050/21)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.1.1941
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BRASK
(Torpedoed 15/1)

I D Form S A 1. SS BRASK. 4079 tons Norwegian (Ex O.B. 272- D.S. 505)
3. 2050/15 52° 45' N., 23° 59' W.
4. At 2048 on the port beam parallel course.
7. Sunk
8. 12 crew lost including master.
9. 2nd Officer claims it is BARGARICO class (Italian)
10. Torpedoed. (N.C.S.O. Londonderry 1035/21)

NEMEA
(Torpedoed 15/1)

1. NEMEA (Greek)
3. 1745/15 52° 33' N., 24° 13' W.
4. Starboard bow converging.
5. Starboard beam 1810 approx. unknown.
6. Half submerged
7. Damaged by torpedo
8. Five left behind in ship. Names.
9. Large presume ENRICO TAZZOLI class.
10 Torpedo.
(N.C.S.O. Londonderry 1535/21)

THELMA
(Torpedoed 20/1)

Your 1303/20. Nothing found am rejoining (LA MALOUINE 1601/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

EMPIRE SCOUT

This was the unknown ship gunned 16/1 in S.W. Approaches. (D.S. 504)

Submarines Reported

1800/20

By D/F position probable German U-Boat at 1800/20 was 230 miles West of Cape Finisterre. (Capt. S. 8 0936/21 to OLYMPUS PANDORA)

0518

D/F bearings at 0518/21 G.M.T. indicate that U-Boat is operating in your vicinity (D.D.I.C. 1054/21 to AUSTRALIA)

1900/20

Estimate one German U-Boat near 043° N. 014° 30' W., at 1906/20 probably homeward bound. (F.O.(S) 1433/21 to S/M's Area B)

/2230.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.1.1941
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

2230 — At 2230 D/F indicated an Italian U-Boat in approx. 048° N., 010° to 011° W. inward bound. (F.O. (S) 2306/21 to S/M's area B)

0700/20 — My 0902/20 two amber lights type B were sighted 90 minutes and 60 minutes before encountering a U-Boat on surface at 0700 G.M.T./20. (Capt. D. 6 2315/21)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

German One to N.W. of Cape Verde Is.
1 near 43° N., 14° 30' W., at 1906/20 probably outward bound.
1 near 50° N., 9° W at 1949/20 outward bound.
Probably two near 52° N., 18° W
1 near 60° N., 25° W at 1158/20
1 was in 59° 40' N., 18° W at 0800/20
1 near 59° N., 19° W., at 0219/21
1 may be near 61° N., 12° W.
3 more in N.W. Approaches or Atlantic whereabouts unknown.

Italian 1 in Las Palmas probably from Freetown area.
1 off S.W. Portugal outward bound
5 or 6 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown but probably to south and well to S.W. of Rockall. (D.D.I.C. 1250/21)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Sweep for Raider.	C.S.2 in ARETHUSA with NIGERIA returned to Scapa this evening.
Enemy unit.	D/F at 1724 indicated an unidentified enemy unit, probably a homeward bound surface ship, in an area 25 miles from 57° 35' N. 16° 0' E.
Torpedo craft off Gravelines.	There were indications that torpedo craft were off Gravelines at 1054. Four aircraft were despatched to attack them, but failed to sight any enemy vessels.
Gale Damage.	Between 1200/21 and 1800/22, 11 of H.M. ships and 3 merchant vessels were damaged by a gale at Greenock.
U-Boat campaign.	S.S. CARLTON was sunk in the Atlantic 20/1; four of the crew landed at an east Canadian port.

British Air Activity.

Bad weather caused Coastal Command patrols to be curtailed again to-day. Two patrols were, however, carried out along the coast of Norway.
All operations by Bomber Command last night were cancelled, and little was effected today.

MOST SECRET.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Unsuccessful attacks were made today on VORTIGERN and Convoy F.S.91 off Sheerness and GARTH escorting TORBAY 15 miles East of Harwich.
S.S. KAPETAN STRATIS was attacked in the N.W. Approaches.

There was no activity by enemy aircraft over this country last night.

Mining.

Minelaying between 1800 and 2300 by enemy aircraft is suspected in the Bristol Channel and Milford Haven area.

Tug ST. CYRUS was mined and sunk (apparently yesterday) and LL trawler LUDA LADY was sunk today in the Humber area. Five other mines were exploded by sweepers. The Humber is still closed.

S.S. JAMAICA PLANTER was damaged by a mine in the Bristol Channel and was beached in Old Harbour, Barry.
Milford Haven was closed late this evening.

North Atlantic.

FURIOUS, NEPTUNE and 5 destroyers arrived at Gibraltar at 1400 today. ISIS and ENCOUNTER entered harbour, but the other ships were unable to do so on account of S.W. gale.

It is reported that the German S.S. CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN has supplied gas oil fuel to the damaged Italian S/M at Las Palmas.

MOST SECRET.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE's aircraft (see 15/1)

NEWCASTLE's aircraft, which was released today crashed on landing and sank. The crew were saved.

Attack on whaling ships. (see 19/1)

It is thought that PELAGOS (whale factory ship) and her catchers have also been captured by the raider.

Raiders, estimated positions.

There are apparently now three enemy units on the South Atlantic Station
A was in 25° S. 10° W. at 2017/19
B was in 12° S. 8° W at 2128/20
C was in 2° S. 8° W. at 2158/20
D/F bearings indicate that unit C may have been within 150 miles of 5° 56° W. at 21582/21. C may R.V. with unit B.

Mediterranean.

Operations in Libya.

Tobruk was captured today. A large number of prisoners were taken.
The Italian schooner DIEGO was sunk off Tobruk last night.
Capt. D.10 and VAMPIRE patrolled of Tobruk; two destroyers from Alexandria are to join them tomorrow.
R.A.F. cooperated with the attack on Tobruk, bombing the defences and gun positions and providing protective patrols for the Navy.
Derna was bombed last night and today, and Apollonia was bombed today.

Graeco-Italian Operations.

R.A.F. today bombed Martiza aerodrome, Rhodes, where German bombers are believed to be located.

East Indies.

A supply depot at Assab was bombed and damaged today by a Blenheim on R.C.

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Meeting at Adty. 24/1. — Your 1745/17. Request meeting may be postponed till Sunday or Monday. (C. in C. H.F. 1217/22 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. — At 1130/22. (D.C.1140/22.)
At 2330/22. (D.C.2354/22.)

Invasion Exercise VICTOR. — (D.C. 0142/22. C. in C. Rosyth 1215/22. F.O.I.C. Iceland 1305/22. D.C.1419/22. Duty Met. Officer 1446/22. C. in C.W.A. 1514/22. V.A.Dover 1610/22.C. in C.W.A. 1644/22, 1705/22. C. in C. Portsmouth 1713/22.C. in C.H.F. 1715/22. C. in C.W.A. 1727/22. D.5. 1742/22. C. in C. H.F. 1755/22. Weslanar 1820/22. F.O.I.C. Portland 1845/22. C. in C. Portsmouth 1855/22. C. in C. H.F. 1900/22. D.5.1942/22. C. in C. W.A. 2031/22, 2037/22. D.C.2150/22. C. in C. Rosyth 2154/22. C. in C. Nore 2208/22. C. in C. W.A. 2215/22. C. in C. Nore 2230/22. C. in C. W.A. 2315/22, 2324/22, 2331/22, 2337/22. F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2338/22. Weslanar 2345/22.

Roborough R.N.Air Stations. Hatston. — Your 1328/16. Details of Ground Defences. (Roborough 1810/22. to RANAS, RANAS Hatston 1402/22 to Adty.)

Movements.

J.3968.) AURORA.) — My 1732/18 para. 2. and F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1826/20. Force is to sail PM/23. (C. in C.H.F. 1215/22. and 1703/22.) My 1826/20. J.3968 will not be ready to sail till 28/1, passing Bar Light 1200.(F.O.Liverpool 1043/22.)

D.6. — Your 1130/22. Proceed to Port Z.A. with your Force and remain there. (C. in C. H.F. 1404/22 to Capt. D.6.)

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines tonight. 2 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1539/22.)

/BOREAS.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

BOREAS. My 1706/21. Following revised programme proposed. (F.O.I.C. London 1650/22 to C. in C. Nore.) Approved. (C. in C. Nore 2055/22.)

Force Z. Sailing, Escort, Route.(Adty 1655/22 to C. in C. W.A,S.A, E.1, F.O.C.N.A.)

ARETHUSA
NIGERIA
NIZAM. Arrived Scapa 1805. (A.C.O.S.1853/22.)

EREBUS. My 2220/21. Correct to read 23/1. (C. in C. Nore 0805/22.) Proceed to Harwich at 1030/23. Route. (C. in C. Nore 2250/22 to EREBUS.)

AGNETE
MAERSK. Your 0168/15, 1928/16, 2035/17, and 1927/21. Noted that ship is now at Dublin. (C. in C.W.A. 1237/22 to Adty.)

Operations.

Operation
SPECIMEN. Your 1203/19. Not intended to fit a second Aerial System in PEGASUS. Reason. (D.S.D. 1147/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation
RUBBLE. My 2233/21. Prospects. (N.A. Stockholm 1545/22 and 1822/22 to Adty.)
See Operations Volume.

P.W.3. and
P.W.1. Your 1100/21. Proposals concurred in. Line W.N.W. from I.E. Buoy considered desirable. (A.C.N.S.H.1641/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

TORBAY.	Sailed Harwich 0911/22 escorted by GARTH. E.T.A. Dundee 1700/23 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0917/22.)
SEALION.	My 1333/19 and 1957/21. Intend SEALION to R/V with D.20. at 20.R.Buoy at 1000/24 for exercise. (S.6.1011/22 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
CACHALOT.	Sailed, escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE, as by 5.2's 1019/18 and 1417/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1040/22.) You may meet 4 Tribal Destroyers in North Minch. Destination unknown. (S.2.2202/22 to CACHALOT.)
H.50.	Sailed with VIRGINIA. E.T.A. Cumbrae Light 0830/23. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1220/22)
Positions.	For 24 hours after 0800/23. (F.O.S. 1734/22.)
UNDAUNTED MINERVE.	Following movements may affect you. (S.9. 2203/22.)
R/C's of Trieux and Quimper River.	British Air Activity. (A) CC/GI/22/1.(C) Reconnaissances of Trieux position 48° 50' N, 03° 03' W. and Quimper River position 47° 52' N. 04° 07' W. are to be flown periodically when cloud cover permits with the object of detecting the presence of submarines. (H.Q.C.C. 0940/22 to Adty.)
Patrols.	FAIR cancelled today. STAND is being flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1014/22.)
	One Stirling aircraft leaving St. Abbs Head 1235 proceeding coast of Wrabness to The Wash. E.T.A. 1415. Then inland. (C. in C. Rosyth 1206/22.)
Suspected) Sabotage.)	Your 1349/21. Reply. (St. Merryn 1059/22 to RANAS.)

/Thames.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Thames Estuary Balloon Barrage.

Minelaying by aircraft in the Thames Estuary has led to the reduction of the Thames balloon barrage to such a degree that it no longer gives protection to the Southend convoy anchorage. As the balloon barrage is thought to be of value as a deterrent to low bombing attacks on ships in the convoy anchorage it is desired to retain sea borne balloons in the estuary if possible. A meeting will be held to discuss whether new balloon sites can be chosen which will give a measure of protection to the convoy anchorage and where balloon servicing craft can proceed to and from their duties with the least risk of damage by mines. Request you or your representatives will attend at Admiralty House, Chatham at 1100/27. (C. in C. Nore 1102/22 to Cdr. Sheerness etc.)

Lorient.

A.P.781/22/1. 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's in Naval Dockyard at Lorient.

C. in C. Rosyth's 1213/20.

Recognition of Escorting A/C on approaching Convoys.

a. This would prevent air escort in narrow waters such as the North Channel.
b. Would be extremely difficult to carry out in practice, would involve a large amount of extra signalling, and would endanger the aircraft if signals were not received in time. It is pointed out that the originator of a signal cannot be sure that signals will be received in time.
c. Is provided for in existing regulations. (C. in C. W.A. 1313/22 to Adty.)

Hatston.

Air Ministry have agreed to release 804 Squadron from operating under Fighter Command as from midnight 31st January. Hurricane Squadron will relieve it, 804 will then transfer to Yeovilton. (5th S.L. 1642/22 to C. in C. H.F.)

/British.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

British A/C.

N.C.I.C. Lowestoft states that at 1226 today an aircraft came in from seawards over Lowestoft at 700 to 1000 feet. Ships opened fire and A/C was hit in port engine and came down in flames near Oulton. No recognition signals fired and A/C came out of sun on course 285°. Blenheim type but no roundels seen on wings or body. Was probably hit by point fire from QUEEN EMPRESS. A/C burnt out. Three bodies identified as R.A.F. Personnel. Further enquiry will be held. (C. in C. Nore 1956/22 to Adty.)

shot down.

OPS 626 22/1. Blenheim 139 Squadron, returning from Operational mission crossed coast Lowestoft 1226/22 on straight course and recognised as Blenheim by local Constabulary. After passing over town, Naval guns opened fire and aircraft hit and crashed with loss of all crew. Action by Naval guns in direct contravention of S.D. 158 (1) appendix "A" paragraph 3 (2). Regret that I must press for a searching enquiry so that the responsibility for this act may be established, and in order that Naval A.A. fire may be brought under a proper system of control. This is the fifth occasion since last October in which my aircraft have been engaged by A.A. fire at Lowestoft alone and illustrated the irresponsible manner in which fire is opened on friendly aircraft. (C. in C. Bomber Cd. 2340/22. to Air Ministry.)

PORT HUNTER.

(British, 8826 Tons.) Outward for Curacoa. Expects pass boom 2200/23. Route. Request Air Protection. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1215/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Zones for Attacks between A/C and Warships.

Adty. 1201/12. I am averse to the revised Zones for following reasons. Suggest following Zones. Remarks. (C. in C. H.F. 2342/22. to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

VORTIGERN. Convoy F.S.91.	Attacked by Dornier 17. Two Bombs. No damage. (VORTIGERN 0950/22.).
GARTH) TORBAY)	Enemy bombing in 51° 56' N. 1° 39' E. (GARTH 1038/22.) Fighter being sent to assist (Nore W/T. 1105/22.) One Dornier 330° 3 miles. Position 52° 29' N. 2° 5' E. (GARTH 1440/22.)
KAPETAN STRATIS.	(Greek, 3574 tons) Attacked by A/C at 1028. G.M.T. in 54° 34' N. 12° 8' W. Require help. (Valentia Radio 1100/22.) Proceed to assist (C. in C. W.A. 1245/22 to ARBUTUS.)
Convoy RADIO.	One A/C shadowing in 53° 44' N. 0° 36' E. (EGRET 1200/22.)
Dover.	At 1148/22. U.P. Battery fired 2 salvoes at a Junkers 88 flying South-Eastward over. A/C altered course. (V.A.Dover 1449/22.)
Lowestoft.	Unidentified A/C fired 3 bursts of M.G. fire apparently at Lighthouse at about 2240. Some bullets fell inside Depot. No damage. (Patrols, Lowestoft 2340/22.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Entry to Watchet Harbour.

My 1451/21. Amend second position to read 225 degrees West Culver Buoy 0.5. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1028/22.)

Gardening for tonight.

(H.Q.C.C. 1206/22.)

Humber. ST. CYRUS sunk.

Tug ST. CYRUS mined and sunk in Gateway. (F.O. Humber 1212/22.)

Anticipated the earliest time the Humber can be opened is 1200/23. Ship when anchoring should pass to the Northward of Gate Vessel Convoy anchorage northern and southern anchorages are not to be used until further orders. (F.O. Humber 1455/22.)

LUDA. LADY Sunk.

LL Trawler LUDA LADY was mined at 1031/ today in position 281° Spurn Point Lighthouse 3 miles. LUDA LADY was sweeping at normal speed at the time when small mine exploded close on her quarter. LUDY LADY sank at 1107 in approx. 53° 36' 33" N. 00° 01' 09" W. Crew were saved.(F.O.Humber 1757/22.)

Five mines exploded plus two mines exploded under ships as reported in my 1212 and 1757. Details will follow. (F.O.Humber 1820/22.)

Sweeping at Dover.

My 1109/20. Sweeping carried out to 0800/22 in Q.Z.X.247 between No.4. and No. 1 Buoys. Two sweep obstructors found.(V.A. Dover 1231/22.)

Harwich Area.

Following signal received from E L G I N 1220/23. Sunk Light Vessel reports mine dropped approximately half cable 090 degrees from light vessel. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1257/22.)

/Exploratory.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Exploratory sweep at entry to Skagerrak.

F.O.(3) 1307/21. I do not consider the very low percentage given warrants the risk entailed to these valuable ships. Air R.C. of the area might disclose mines laid shallow.(C. in C. H.F. 1357/22.)

S.S.JAMAICA PLANTER. mined.

Immediate casualty (or Minefield) Report (1) 196° Nells Pt. 1.25 miles (2) JAMAICA PLANTER (Beached) (F.O.I/C. Cardiff 1720/22.)

My 1720/22 JAMAICA PLANTER has been beached in Old Harbour Barry. She is severely damaged. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1730/22.)

Milford Haven.

Port is closed owing to mines laid by enemy aircraft.(F.O.I/C. Milford Haven 2116/22.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy T.B.'s off French Coast.

There are indications of eight enemy torpedo craft since 0933 off coast of France. Courses received 045° 070° and 083°. Latest speed 23 knots bearing at 1030 from South Foreland 170°. Air R.C. at present not possible as machines are grounded.(V.A.Dover 1058/22.)

My 1058 indications that torpedo craft were off Gravelines at 1054. Four aircraft are taking off about 1200. (V.A. Dover 1127/22.)

Enemy Unit at entrance to Skagerrak.

By D/F at 1724 B.S.T. unidentified enemy unit probably surface unit in area 25 miles from 57 35 N. 6° 00'E. It is thought unlikely that an outward bound unit would make a signal in this position. (D.D.I.C. 1814/22.)

/French.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

~~Mining Contd.~~

French Ships and S/M's under German Control.

Following from Navy Department. From Rome dated 18/1. Source Italian Pilot just returned from Squadron in France (2) About 14 days previously he saw CLEMENCEAU running final trials. (3) JEAN BART will be ready for final trials in about two months. (4) After taking Le Havre and other French Ports, Germans salvaged and put in service 11 French submarines and 21 destroyers. (N.A.Washington, 1615/22 to Admty.) Comments by N.I.D. show information entirely incorrect or much exaggerated.)

Miscellaneous.

Replacement of Sunk and Shipwash Light Vessels.

Your 1750/21. Arrangements are being made accordingly. (D. of N. 1250/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

MOST SECRET.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.

F.N.89. — F.N.89 expected time of arrival 20 C Buoy 0130/23.
(EGRET, 0841/22, to N.O.I.C. Tyne).

F.S.92. — No berth available inside Tyne.
Adjust time of arrival Tyne pier to 1445.
F.S. 92 now sails fdrm Tyne at 1500.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0859/22 to LONDONDERRY).

Your 0859/22. Can meet convoy 20 C buoy 1600 but cannot arrive Tyne at 1445. E.S.E. gale force 9 heavy (?North West) Seas. Consider condition unsuitable for sailing convoy. (LONDONDERRY, 1158/22 to C.in C. Rosyth).

F.N.87. — Arrived in Firth of Forth during night. Two ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0912/22)

F.S.91. — Reported at Nore L/V. 9 ships for London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1001/22).

O.B.M.278. — 1750/23. H.M.T. DERBY COUNTY Five.
(N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1930/22).

W.N.73
W.N.74 — Ref. my 1143/19, convoy sailing cancelled.
W.N.74 will sail as my 1523/21.
(N.C.S.O., Clyde, 1146/22).

F.N.89. — Due Flamborough 1530/22.)
F.N.92. — Due Flamborough 0400/23.)
F.N.90. — Sails from Southend 0830/23.)
(C.in C. Nore, 1200/22).

O.B.O.277. — Sailed VERBENA to escort O B O 277.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1206/22 to N.O.I.C. Oban).

O.B.C.277. — Sailed VANQUISHER to escort O.B.C.277.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1340/22)

O.B.C.277 unable to sail owing to weather.
O.B.277 proceed to Clyde.
O.B.O.277 sailing to be delayed 24 hours.
O.B.M.277 will be ordered to proceed to Clyde. (C.in C. W.A. 1519/22 to N.C.S.O. Oban, GENTIAN).

Sailed ARAKAKA with O.B.277.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1520/22).

O.B.277. — Sailed VISCOUNT, GENTIAN, WINCHELSEA, WHITEHALL escort for O.B.277.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1640/22).

/ O.B.277

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (contd.)

O.B.277. Sailed 1650/22, 6 ships 9 knots two ships with kites. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1710/22).

O.B. Routes. A.M.1927/4 and 2238/4. Unless instructions are issued to the contrary Convoys OB 279, 281, 283 and all subsequent odd numbered OB convoys will be routed through the Minches and ships from EN convoys joining these OB convoys should be detached to Loch Ewe. Routes for OB convoys indicating whether they will proceed through the Minches or not will be repeated to N.C.S.O. Methil and Aultbea. (D.T.D. 1218/22).

F.N.89. Ships in F.N.89 for Blyth and Amble should be diverted to Middlesbrough. Ships for Methil should be diverted to Tyne. You should escort final section of convoy into Tyne then proceed independently to Rosyth reporting expected time of arrival. (C.in C. Rosyth 1431/22 to EGRET, VERDUN).

Cancel my 1431. Ships bound Methil should be diverted to Tyne proceeding independently to Rosyth reporting expected time of arrival after Amble Section has left you. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1710/22, to EGRET, VERDUN).

Your 1431, ships informed. Total now Humber 9 Middlesboro 15 Hartlepool 4 Sunderland 4 Tyne 14. Cdre. expects to arrive Tyne 0330. Following ships not seen ABERMILL for Methil PRINS KNUD and THESEUS for Blyth. EGRET expected time of arrival May Island. 0930. (EGRET, 1815/22 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Your 1710 received too late to be complied with owing to bad weather conditions. Request N.C.S.O. Middlesbrough take necessary action on arrival extra ships there. (EGRET, 1915/22 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Your 1715. Lowestoft trawlers have left. Request permission to proceed to rejoin EGRET. (VERDUN, 1826/22, to C.in C. Nore).

F.S.92. Your 1158/22. WOLFHOUND with ships of F.S.92 will R/V with you at 20 C buoy 1600/22. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1435/22 to LONDONDERRY).

WOLFHOUND sailed with F.S.92. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1501/22).

/ F.S.92 sailed ...

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.S. 92. (contd).	F.S. 92 sailed 1500. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1508/22).
	Ships in F.S. Convoy 92 for Humber are detached at 62 D buoy to Humber light vessel where they will be protected locally until Humber is open. (C. in C. Rosyth 1803/22 to LONDONDERRY, WOLFHOUND).
O.B.C. 278.	(a) 1030/24. (b) Not known. (c) 11. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1522/22).
E.N. 60.	Sailing of E.N. 60 delayed owing to weather. Intend to sail this convoy without Moray Firth Diversion a.m. tomorrow Thursday. (C. in C. Rosyth 1648/22).
5.M.V.	Crown sailed, 5 M/Vs and 2 escorts. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1657/22).
F.S. 91.	Arrived all ships except STANWOLD and MIKRVALDIS. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1836/22).
S.L.O. 61.	Your 1149/22 via aircraft received. Trawler escort not available for Oban portion. Failing other escort joining you WOLVERINE is to escort S.L.C. 61 to Oban and then return to Base. AYRSHIRE ordered to join at Oban and then return to Base. AYRSHIRE ordered to join at 1000 is to escort Liverpool Portion and then return to base. (C. in C. W.A. 1843/22 to VETERAN, WOLVERINE).
	Your 1943/22/1 (? 1843) received too late for action. Request further instructions. (N.C.S.O. Oban 2345/22 to C. in C. W.A.).

/W.N. 72.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

W.N. 72.

Merchant ships are to be anchored in Scrabster. FOWEY and INDIAN STAR proceed to Firth of Forth reporting expected time of arrival.
(C. in C. Rosyth, No. T.O.O/22 to FOWEY, INDIAN STAR).

W.N. 72 sheltering in Stoer Bay.
(INDIAN STAR 1440/22 to A.C.O.S).

Steamship RATHLIN only ship in W.N. 72 present sheltering in STOER BAY will proceed Scrabster 0600/23 weather permitting arriving 1600/23. Will escort RATHLIN to Scrabster and proceed Firth of Forth as instructed by your 1152/22. Have not contacted FOWEY.
(INDIAN STAR, 1645/22 to A.C.O.S.).

ORONTES.

Your 1637/21 (2 Destroyers to escort ORONTES). GARLAND and LEOPARD detailed. ARROW carrying out A/S exercises in lieu of GARLAND.
(Capt (D) Greenock. 1246/22).

Ocean Convoys.

H.X. 104.

C.O.A.C. Halifax 1131/17. 31 ships did not sail for following reason. 9 did not arrive, 5 degaussed, 3 slow convoy, 7 required repairs, 1 armament, 1 completing loading, 3 incomplete crews, 2 required water, 3 additional ships were able to sail.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1124/22 to Admty).

H.G. 50.

H.G. 50 not met. My position 053° 33'N. 016° 44'W. Patrol north and south, SHIKARI in company.
(HESPERUS 1129/22 to C. in C. W.A.).

H.X. 103.

Convoy sailing telegram as amended by Admiralty (11 ships).
(D.T.D. 1808/22 to C. in C. W.A.).

S.L. 61.

HEEMSKERK, TEMPLEMEAD and GRETA VALE not present.
(C. in C. W.A. 1919/22 to Admty).

S.C. 20.

Halifax departure 22/1 RANPURA ocean escort S.C. 20. (S.O.1. Halifax 1925/22)
Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1506/22).

S.L.S. 62.

Your 1118/22 has been repeated to Commodore SLS 62 in Merchant Navy Code (Commodore's Recoding table) giving position as a bearing and distance from X.
(D.T.D. 1936/22 to F.O.C.N.A.).

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Troop Convoys.
ORONTES.

Request reply to my 1500/20/1 if ORONTES is sailing tomorrow 23/1 in accordance with your 1506/9/1 to F.O.C. 3rd.B.S. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 0930/22. to Adty.)

B.H.X.104.
W.S.6.

Intend providing three destroyers in addition to normal escort group to meet B.H.X.104 on 3/2. This should leave seven destroyers available for W S six on (date) I consider 15 Destroyers is desirable escort for this convoy but 12 can be accepted as a minimum. Request additional destroyers may be detailed. (C. in C. W.A.1105/22 to Adty.)

T.C.9.

Propose to sail T.C.9 consisting of 5 ships from Halifax to arrive at R/v with A/S escort on (date).

In view of W.S.6 and other committments your remarks are requested as to the date when T.C.9 can be met.(D.O.D.(H) 1330/22 to C. in C. W.A.) Reply C. in C. W.A. 1631/22. See Operations Volume.

GLENEARN.

Movements. (D.C.O. 1635/22 to V.A. Hallett, QUEBEC.)

Force Z.

Ships addressed will in future be referred to as Force "Z" (D.O.D.(H) 1636/22 to GLENGYLE, GLENROY, GLENEARN. Orders for (Adty 1655/22.) See Operations Volume.

ORONTES.

ORONTES does not anticipate being ready to sail before 0900/24/1. Suggest ship leaves Greenock at 1800/24 in order to avoid overtaking O.B.277 in Minches before daylight. Request further instructions be sent to N.C.S.Greenock. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 1645/22.)

BURDWAN.

Re Adty. 1413/14. F.O.I.C. Greenock is to inform C. in C. Rosyth if sailing of W.S.6. is delayed in order that sailing of BURDWAN may be deferred accordingly to give more time for loading at Rosyth. (Adty 1740/22.)W.S.6. Re destroyer escort (A.C.N.S.(H) 2207/22 to C. in C. H.F.) See Operations Volume.

/AMSTERDAM.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. ~~Contd.~~

AMSTERDAM MAID OF ORLEANS.	Military personnel ship AMSTERDAM has been ordered to report to you forthwith. E.T.A. 24/1.Arrange bunker fully with coal immediately on arrival. Order AMSTERDAM and MAID OF ORLEANS to report to S.N.O, Inverary early on 26/1. (D. of S.T. 2245/22. to P.S.T.O. Greenock.)
Use of Lights.	Admiralty Message "EI". It is suspected that U Boats or Raiders may exhibit lights with the object of making a merchant ship disclose her exact position by switching on Navigation Lights. In the event of strange lights being sighted or of another ship exhibiting navigation lights, Masters should not themselves switch on lights unless absolutely necessary in order to avoid collision. 1707/22. to C.B.M.S. all areas.)(D.T.D.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES. & DEFECTS.

Convoy RADIO. — Commodore aground on Haisborough. Am proceeding with remainder. (EGRET 0205/22 to N.O.I.C. Humber.)

4 Ships aground on South Haisborough. Anticipate should float off on rising tide. Commodore now proceeding. (VERDUN 0302/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

MERIONES. — (British, 7557 Tons.) Tug NORMAN sailed at 0815 and Tug KROOMAN at 0835 to assist vessel on Haisborough. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0855/22.) Aground in 52° 53' N. 1° 47' E. No damage at present, but damage likely if weather worsens. Tugs urgently required. Is VERDUN to remain (VERDUN 0900/22 to C. in C. Nore.) Remain in vicinity. Do not risk grounding. Tugs have been sent. (C. in C. Nore 1041/22 to VERDUN.) Ship reports settling. Request more Tugs.(VERDUN 1340/22 to F.O.C.N.P.) Ship reports feared holed but will float when off. Awaiting high water for last try tonight. 2 Trawlers from Lowestoft standing by. Tugs present. (VERDUN 1526/22 to C. in C. Nore.) High water attempt to re-float unsuccessful. Trawler now left. (VERDUN 1725/22.) Remain till relieved. N.O.I.C. Yarmouth requested to detail Trawler to stand by (C. in C. Nore 1915/22 to VERDUN.) Tug ST.MELLONS sailed 1530 to assist Yarmouth Tugs (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2051/22.) Proceed Rosyth when Trawler STRATHRANNOCK arrives or at daylight, whichever is first. (C. in C. Nore 2315/22 to VERDUN.) Sailed M/V's SIGNALITY and GLORY at 1030/23 to assist (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1035/23.) Proceed to assist. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth to STRATHRANNOCK. Recd.2257/23.)

TRIBUNE. — Am proceeding Milford Haven to make good Engine defects. E.T.A.1201/22. (TRIBUNE 0917/22.)

/BEVERLEY.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BEVERLEY.	Intend anchoring Belfast Lough to examine and if possible make temporary repair of defective Steering Engine. E.T.A. 1730/22. (BEVERLEY 1315/22.)
OCEAN GAIN.	(Wiping Drifter, wooden). Sunk in collision. Now alongside Harwich West Pier. (Salvage Officer 1600/22 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)
TIERCEL.	(A/S Yacht.) Your 1622/20. To be sailed for Belfast for repairs. (D.O.D.H.1801/22 to WESTERN ISLES.)
KIRRIEMOOR.	(British,4970 Tons.) Ship is overloaded. Request Adty. inform me how much Ballast should be removed. Ship awaiting orders at Oban.(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2210/22 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Seized French Ships, Gibraltar.

My 1012/8. Intend sailing CHARLES PLUMIER, SENATEUR DUHAMEL, JOSEPH DUHAMEL and SALLY MAERSK in H.G.52 escorted by DUNCAN on 27/1 2. As these ships have been seized in accordance with your 1845/13 and your 1348/17 and fly red ensigns, presume interception by French is unlikely and instructions contained in your 1200/8 no longer apply. 3. If possibility of interception has still to be reckoned with, it will be necessary to utilize Force H. 4. Several ships have perishable cargoes. (F.O.C.N.A. 1318/22, to Admty).

CLEMENCEAU
JEAN BART.

N.A.Washington, 1615/22 (See Home Commands Enemy Intelligence).

POITIERS, crew internment.

Ref: my letter 1303/1540 of 27/9/40. 28 members of crew of S.S. POITIERS who scuttled herself off Bathurst when intercepted by CUMBERLAND on 16/1 are still in internment at Freetown by the Colonial Government. It was originally suggested that they should be retained in view of the fact that the French have interned British Merchant Seamen. (See my 2319/17/10). Requested I may be informed if the situation has altered in any way. (C.in C. S.A. 2127/22 to Adty).

CUBA
ILE DE FRANCE.

My 0135/27/12. Portuguese COLONIAL sailed Freetown today 22/1 with 115 French for Casablanca ex French ship CUBA. Also ob board crew of French ship ILE DE FRANCE embarked at (? Mozambique) for Lisbon and several German women and children. No grounds found for detention of latter. Ship fully Navicerted and after Casablanca proceeds Lisbon direct.
(C.in C. S.A. 2151/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/Boat at Las Palmas.

My 1645/21 Italian submarine. I have been informed, has been supplied with 75 tons of fuel and repairs now completed but diver continues examination of vessels hull(?) Rumour submarine leaving here tonight. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1100/22 to Admty, etc.)

My 1711/20 Las Palmas reports repairs to Italian U/Boat have been completed and it is rumoured that she will be sailed tonight. (F.O.C.N.A. 1847/22 to S. and A, N.A.)

Your 1750/21. Damaged submarine is only entitled to make such repairs as are absolutely necessary to render it sea-worthy and Spanish Govt., are being pressed for strict application of international law. Request report of any further details of damage available. C.in C. S. A should be kept informed.
(Hd. of M. 1944/22 to Consul, Las Palmas).

Taking oil from German tanker CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN (See German Merchant Ships).

Unknown Ships.

Following from LOCH OSKAIG. (Begins). Sighted 12 miles south 12,000 tons merchant ship steering west 14 knots escorted by destroyer. Descriptions. Unknown nationality. My position 037º 50'N., 010º 00'W 1650/21 (Ends). Unable to identify.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1115/22 to S. and A. N.A.)
OTUS informed (Capt: S.S., 1154/22).

Your 1115/22. Spanish Cruiser A.CERVERA on route Ferrol to Cadiz was within 50 miles of this position at 1650/21.
(2320/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

OTUS
OLYMPUS
PANDORA.

Estimated positions of submarines at 0800/23 and movements for following 24 hours (a) OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (b) OLYMPUS 041º 20'N., 021º W., proceeding on surface through 043º 30'N., 013º 30 W. speed 10 knots (c) PANDORA 042º N., 010º 50'W proceeding on surface through 043º 50'N., 010º 50'W speed 10 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1126/22).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Air Report.

Daily summary operations. No flying. Weather conditions unsuitable. (200 Group 1711/22).

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE
Destroyers.

FURIOUS, NEPTUNE, DUNCAN, ISIS, ENCOUNTER, FEARLESS, FURY arrived 1400/22. Unable to enter harbour owing to S.W.Gale. Ships less ISIS, ENCOUNTER are remaining at sea to eastwards until a.m./23. ISIS, ENCOUNTER entered harbour. (F.O.C.N.A. 1750/22 to Admty, etc.)

French Ships at Gibraltar.

My 1250/16 and 1318/22 to Admiralty and my 1702/22 to Admiralty for D. of S.T. French ships awaiting crews can only be manned by small maintenance parties. During a succession of heavy S.W.Gales several of these have dragged and sustained damage which might have been avoided had they been fully manned and capable of raising steam. This has shown the necessity of sending out crews from U.K. as quickly as possible. Further these ships congest an already restricted anchorage. Admiralty inform D. of S.T. (V.A.C.N.A. 1842/22 to Admty).

MARON.

Engine trouble. Returning to Gib. E.T.A. 1630 G.M.T./23. (MARON 2120/22 to N.O.I.C. Gib.)

South Atlantic.

W.S.5.A.
HAWKINS,
FORMIDABLE,
SHROPSHIRE,
NORFOLK,
AUSTRALIA.

Admty. 1642/6, paras. C and D (See Home Commands Shipping 6/1). Re Cruiser escorts Orders for HAWKINS, FORMIDABLE, SHROPSHIRE, NORFOLK, AUSTRALIA. (D.O.D.(F) 0300/22 to C.in C's S.A. and E.I. F.O.Force K and 1522/22 to C.in C. E.I.) See Operations Vol.

W.S.5.B.
Re fuelling and Watering.

D.O.D.(F) 0303/22, C.in C.S.A. 0907N/22. See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

DRAGON
DEVONSHIRE.

Your 1735N/21 please cancel my 1721B/21. DRAGON carried out unbasining and sails 0830 and DEVONSHIRE at 1030/22.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0720B/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

317. Simonstown departures 22/1. DRAGON at 0630 speed 18 knots, DEVONSHIRE at 0930 speed 24 knots until DRAGON is overtaken when both ships proceed at speed of advance 18 knots to St. Helena (route). Unless further orders are received DRAGON will fuel at St. Helena and DEVONSHIRE will proceed to Freetown in a cordance with your 2235/17.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0945/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

SAVORGNAN
DE BRAZZA.

Completion date has been delayed until 25/1 owing to defect. Hope to sail ship dawn that day.
(N.L.O. Durban, 0732/22 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

WINKFIELD.

Overdue shipping, my 0955/31, WINKFIELD arrived Durban.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 0905/22.)

8th D.F.

Your 2327/21 and F.O.C.N.A's 1836/21. My p.c and s. are 030° 37'N., 017° 09'W., 232° 15 knots. Fuel does not permit of reaching Freetown by route ordered.
(D.8 0914/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

D.8's 0914/22. Request you will take necessary action.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1828/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

REINA DEL
PACIFICO.

Your 1728/19 part 3 (four).
REINA DEL PACIFICO does not require docking or repairs expected to sail for Capetown p.m./23.
(N.L.O. Durban, 1009/22 to Admty for D.S.T.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ALCANTARA, QUEEN OF BERMUDA, PRETORIA CASTLE, CARNARVON CASTLE.

Your No. 223 12/12 I will consider ALCANTARA for relief of QUEEN OF BERMUDA shortly. She should have been brought up to date and have catapult. PRETORIA CASTLE now refitting and having equipment brought up to date might be made available later. CARNARVON CASTLE is at present at Simonstown will not be able to have such additional equipment fitted as this can only be done at home port.
(C.in C. S.A. 1031/N/22 to R.A.S.A.D.)

BUTESHIRE.

Southbound ship crossing 20° N., for Cape, approx. noon position 23/1 and route.
(D.T.D. (851) 1324/22 to S.A. Station).

NEWCASTLE'S Aircraft.

NEWCASTLE'S aircraft crashed on landing; Aircraft sank at once. Crew safe and uninjured. LYNTON GRANGE who was at R/V has proceeded. Position aircraft sank 090° Lobos Island 33 miles.
(NEWCASTLE, 1332Z/22 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Enemy Units, estimated positions.

Enemy units mentioned in my 1101/20 my 1051/21 and my 1335/21 will be referred to as follows. Thetone in 025 south 010° West at 2017/19A. The one in 012° S., 008° West at 2128/20B. The one in 002° S., 008° West at 2158/20C. D/F bearings indicate unit C may have been within 150 miles of 005° south 006 West at 2158Z/21. C may R/V with unit B.
(C.in C. S.A. 1359 N/22 to S.A. Station).

Attack on Whaling Ships.

Following is situation in addition to that already signalled by South Georgia:
(a) SOUTHERN EMPRESS and SVEND FOYN with 16 catchers a e now working in approx. 062° S., 038° W.

(b) Argentine oiler ERNE STORNQUIST leaving South Georgia 22/1 with 6000 tons of fuel oil for SVEND FOYN. Am escorting her South.

(c) Norwegian oiler LANCING has left Aruba and is on passage to oil at Ole Wegger on 1/2.

(d) THORRHAMMER with seven catchers at Grytvyken awaits owner's orders to sail.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1531Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Falklands).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA can oil and water at Stromness. Have instructed Magistrate to reserve 3000 tons oil fuel for me.
Have embarked a Norwegian Gunner one of the OLE WEGGER'S Catchers and intend proceeding to provide cover for SOUTHERN EMPRESS and SVEND FOYN.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1539Z/22).

Ref: Ponta Delgada'a 2145/19. Following is further description of enemy raider:-
Raider will have been able to complete with up to 6000 tons fuel oil, food and water from ships captured.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1543Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Falklands).

Convoy W.S.6.	Re watering (C.in C. S.A. 1923/22) See Operations Volume.
R.A.F. Developments, Freetown, Bathurst.	Would be of great assistance if some idea of general policy being followed in R.A.F. developments at Freetown and Bathurst could be given. The only Air Force Officer here has been a constructional engineer who is told to erect certain buildings. Aerodromes or landing grounds are mentioned which seem to have no bearing on main points at issue. No indication of priority has been given. Difficulty re accommodation for R.A.F. personnel. C.O.C. West Africa has no Official information. Concur fully with his recent recommendations that an R.A.F. Officer should be sent to Freetown who is fully conversant with R.A.F. policy. (C.in C. S.A. 1747N/22 to Admty).
JAN VIDETTE.	Arrival 1830/22 JAN VIDETTE with minor defects. (C.in C. S.A. 1957N/22 to Admty).
Italian U/Boat.	Your 1650/21 (re damaged Italian submarine) has been passed to C.in C. S.A. who should be kept informed. (Hd. of M 2002/22 to N.A.Madrid).

MOST SECRET.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Bombers.

Report 40 to 50 German H.E. III bombers may now be based on Benghazi and/or Rhodes
T.O.O. 0003/22.
(Capt: S.3 0007/22 to Med. Fleet).

Air Reports, Tobruk SAN GIORGIO.

Ops. Summ. No. 226 up to 1200 hrs. 22/1.
(1) Egypt. Night 20/21. 8 Wellingtons dropped 28,750 lbs.of bombs on military targets in the Tobruk defended area as preliminary to assault by army following morning.

Day 21/1. Blenheims made 56 Sorties during day against positions inside Tobruk defences in close support of assault troops 54,000 lbs of bombs dropped hitting M.T. vehicles gun emplacements buildings on wharf and cruiser SAN GIORGIO. 2 large 4 medium 2 small merchant ships seen anchored 1 mile off Apollonia no troop movements between Mechile and Derna. Assault on inner defences Tobruk continues without serious interruption by defence.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1152/22).

GLASGOW.

A.T.1312/16, para.1. GLASGOW will be required to escort an important convoy to Suez from the Cape.
2. Request you will sail GLASGOW accordingly.
(D.O.D.(F) 1331/22 to C.in C. Med.)

Malta Air Report.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700 hours G.M.T. 22/1. No air activity enemy or own today.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/22).

CLAN MACAULAY.

Slight damage to CLAN MACAULAY due enemy action temporary repairs being effected Malta. No casualties.
(S.T.O. Malta 1737/22 to D. S.T.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Tunis, report of coming attack.

Report from Swiss secret sources (begins) San Marco specialised landing battalions preparing to leave Pola. Increased activity entitles Swiss to believe that attack on Tunis is imminent. (Ends). Graded B.O.
(D.N.I. 1747/22 to C.in C. Med.)

Mines.

A dangerous area due to mines exists south of Pantellaria, within a radius of 2 miles of 36° 24' 15" N., 12° 10' E., a floating mine has been reported in 42° 12'N., 8° 27'E., approx. 5 miles west of Corsica. (D.S.506).

Convoy A.13.

Arrived Piraeus 1700Z/22.
(N.C.S.O.Athens. 1800/22).

Dispositions.

Movement summary 184. Eastern Med.
Submarines. UNIQUE in area T south of 033° 05 N., and between 012° 25' East and 013° 00' East. REGENT patrolling between 282 Derna 49 and 304 Derna 62. RORQUAL left Malta noon/22 for Adriatic passing 035 20'N., 015 20'E and 040 00'N., 019 00' E., crossing lat. 40 N., about 1800/25.
H.M.Ships. ORION, BONAVENTURE, YORK, AJAX, ILEX, HERO in position 036 00'N., 024 028 east at 0800/23 proceeding westward. BARHAM VALIANT PERTH and six destroyers left Alexandria (? at full speed) 22nd to operate West of Crete. Capt: D.10 and VAMPIRE patrolling off Tobruk to be joined by two destroyers from Alexandria p.m./23. TERROR at Alexandria leaving for Sollum p.m./23. A.N.13 due Piraeus p.m./22 A.S.13 leave Piraeus 24th for Port Said pass Kaso 2330/25 joined by FAREHAM from Suda Bay SALVIA HYACINTH patrol Kithera Straits. T.O.O. 2150/22.
(C.in C. Med. 2304/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Kismayu.

Your 0542/21. Instructions.
(D.O.D.(F) 0302/22 to C. in C. E.I).
See Operations Volume.

Operation Breach.

My 1230/21. Movements of Force K.
(C in C E.I. 1134Z/22 to N.O.I.C Simonstown).
See Operations Volume.

Object and plans.
(C. in C. E.I. 1830Z/22 to S.O. Force K)
See Operations Volume.

Air Reports.

H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1153/22, 1154/22. A.H.Q.
Aden 1754/22. No naval items.

DUCHESS OF ATHOL.
VICEROY OF INDIA.

(1) DUCHESS OF ATHOLL and VICEROY OF INDIA are to be detached on arrival at latitude 029 degrees South and are to proceed independently at best speed to (?Capetown), provided (a) VICEROY OF INDIA can await arrival in U.K. for docking and repairs. (b) Ships have sufficient endurance. If answer to (a) or (b) is in negative ship concerned is to proceed subject to N.O.I/C Simonstown's concurrence to Durban.
(C. in C. E.I. 0734Z/22 to CERES).

Cable Ships.

Your 2004/18. (1) Managers and commanders of cable ships are most helpful and provide all the information at their disposal. (2) They can not, however, give authoritive information on the following: (A) Advance programmes of cable ships (B) Docking dates of cable ships. (C) Head Office intentions as regards priority of cable repairs. All the above information is necessary to me if the Cable Company are to obtain the maximum benefit from such assistance as I can give.
(C. in C. E.I. 0958Z/22 to Admty).

/KANIMBLA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

KANIMBLA. KANIMBLA is to leave Durban a.m./24 and proceed at 15 knots towards position 010° S. 047° E.
(C. in C. E.I. 1042Z/22).

Contraband Control, India. My telegram 26/12. I have now examined superficially contraband position here. Many gaps in existing co-ordination between Government of India and native states and complete lack of coOordination between Authorities in India and H.M. representatives in Arabian Countries Iraq, Persia and Far East and such essential key points as Colombo. Existing contraband control in Egypt appears too distant to be effective against contraband exports from India and in Indian Ocean generally. Need of more stringent control appears urgent, task considerable and expense proportionately great and much tact with native states will be required. It is however feasible. (Steps to be taken) Centre should maintain intimate relations with C. in C. East Indies and Naval Authorities generally and be governed by Naval Exigencies (Ends).
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 1153/22 to Admty).

Enemy Unit. A supposed German unit Bore 206° 2nd class from Bombay at 0212Z/21. No crossbearing received.
(C. in C. E.I. 1654Z/22 to S.O. Force T).

U.S.S. Departure 1930z/22 CARLISLE KANDAHAR KIMBERLEY for U.S. S.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 2041/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Conference.	Your 0317z/22. Re visit of C. in C. Far East. (C. in C. China, 1047z/22 to First Naval Member).
Free French.	De Schompre to De Gaulle No. 45 20/1 Re volunteers from Philippines. (C. in C. China 0427z/22).
Detection of Ships by Japan.	Your telegram No. 0001. Following letter received from Japanese Resident Naval Officer. (Asks for evidence of bribes accepted by Japanese Naval officers to release ships). As financial arrangements made by Chinese, definite proof unobtainable. As honour of Japanese Navy is involved, very delicate handling required. Suggest not to press matter further for the moment. (N.L.O. Shanghai 07362/22 to Ambassador, Tokyo).
Attitude of Admiral Decoux.	Ref. Bangkok's 45 to Foreign Office. We feel this is taking too pessimistic a view. Decoux in absence of instructions from Vichy was bound to take attitude he did. We consider seriousness of the results of continued conflagration are such as to justify every effort we can exert to bring about a peaceful solution. Next move would appear to depend on what action U.S.A. are taking in any vide my 48 to Admiralty (T.O.O. 1149/20) Governor and C. in C. Far East have been consulted and agree. (C. in C. China 1025Z/22 to Admty).
N.E.I. Bombers.	Ref. Adty (? to) C. in C. China 1546"16 if N.E.I. are given bombers obvious advantage in making them same type as we shall be using. (Easfar Singapore 1115/22 to Air Ministry).

/Indo.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (contd).

Indo-China Trade.

Your 0946/18 para 17. These three Norwegian Ships have recently been time chartered by the Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission to H.M.G. and have been allocated to trades outside the China Station. Presumably Indo-China Gov. will not object to three other allied ships which are free and normally engaged in the Indo-China trade being substituted. (D.T.D. 1144/22 to C. in C. China).

M.E.W. Far East.

Your 0723/20/11. Exercise of contraband control in Far East governed by War Cabinet decision of 22/4/1940 that in view of delicacy of relations with Japan, no ship should be intercepted in Pacific without consultation with Foreign and Dominions Offices. Establishment of branch M.E.W. in Far East is therefore impracticable (Reasons). Observations re importance of stopping leakage of important commodities to Germany. (Hd. of M. 1417/22 to C. in C. China).

ASAKA.

Reference Embassy telegram to Foreign Office No. 108 21/1. (C. in C. China 27 C.O.I.S. Far East 47 D.N.I. Ottawa 4) Ministry of Marine have informed me that (?Japenese) Ship ASAKA left Yokosuka January 16th and is due at Panama Canal February 7th and Lisbon February 20th. From photograph of ship supplied by Ministry it appears that ASAKA is actually NYK Semi passenger ship ASAKA MARU 7298 tons. (Description). (N.A. Tokyo 1731/22 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

NEUVA ANDALUSIA. — My 2124/21. Oil Company have been informed by Texas Oil Company (owners) ship is to remain at sea pending their instructions.
(N.O. Curacoa 0942/22 to D. of S.T.).

S.S. TAMERLANE. — (Carrying aeroplanes) (N.C.S.O. New York 1048/22) See Operations Volume.

Naval bases at Trinidad and Jamaica. — Your 1752/21 GOSHAWK late CORTICELLI renamed BENBOW. Large Chris-craft crash boat named GOSHAWK.
(N.O.I/C Port of Spain 1150/22 to Adty).

B.H.X. 106.
MALOJA. — B.H.X. 105 is cancelled, no ships having arrived at Bermuda. Intend MALOJA to act Ocean Escort for B.H.X. 106.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1642/22).

U.S. Bases. — C. in C. A.W.I. 1901/22 to Admty).

Australia.

HOBART, flagship. — F.O. Australian Squad. Transferred to HOBART 21/1.
(A.C.N.B. 0712/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

JESSICA. 998 G.T. Reported to have left Bergan 13/1 with 250 tons of aluminium for Hamburg. (D.S. 505).

CLARA HUGO STINNES. 5295 G.T. Reported to have completed at Gothenburg by 3/12 repairs of damage done to herin air raids in Norway. Crew said to have rejoined her on 30/11. (D.S. 505).

OSORNO. Callao reports superstructive now painted black. PRINCE ROBERT informed. (S.O.I. Kingston to Admty 1109/22).

CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN. Reported to have procided gas oil fuel in drums (transported by barge to shore) to the damaged Italian S/m at Las Palmas on 21/1. (D.S. 506)

DRESDEN. Reported to have taken on board 86 drums of oil and 30 cases of lubricating oil. (D.S. 506).

BABITONGA. Has loaded 75 drums of oil (D.S. 506).

SALZBURG. Arrived Burgas 22/1 (Galata 1308/22) Left Varna for Turkey with transit goods from Germany for Persia (V-C Varna 1802/22).

OSORNO.
FRANKFURT.
PORTLAND. Following from Navy Department. From Santiago de Chile 17/1. German OSORNO begins loading wool and oats today. German FRANKFURT granted permission to load 700 tons concentrates. She has not been dry docked since war began. German PORTLAND has loaded 1000 tons of lentils, 3000 oats, 500 wool, 1490 beans and 600 concentrates. She has requested permission to bunker 6 tons of lubricating oil and 90 diesel oil. Said to have 270 tons of fuel oil on board when she arrived at Talcahuano December for bottom painting. (N.A. Washington 1700/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

N.A. Rio de Janeiro's 1735/20 (Reporting French naval forces will take MENDOZA). Report distance MENDOZA can steam with the fuel now aboard her.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1252/22 to DORSETSHIRE).

Your 1252/22. Am rejoining MENDOZA in position 020° 50'S. 027° 53'W. at 0700/23 to ascertain whether she is being steamed with one engineer and three executive officers and 30 ratings ex DORSETSHIRE . MENDOZA's crew friendly but completely passive. Intend to stand by her pending further instructions and steer towards St. Helena at 11 knots.
(DORSETSHIRE 2301Z/22 to Admty).

CAMPANA.

CAMPANA sails 2200 local time/23 for Montevideo to complete fuel and loading frozen meat.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1820/22 to R.A.S.A.D etc)

JEAN L.D.

S.O. Force K. 1014Z/21. French ship JEAN L.D. should be sent to Simonstown, now Capetown vide my 1311/6/11 to C. in C. S.A. only.
(D.E.W.D. 1848/22 to C. in C. S.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CARLTON (torpedoed 20/12). — British, 5162 tons, from Newport to Buenos Aires with coal, torpedoed and sunk in Atlantic on 20/12. Four of crew, believed to be the only survivors, landed at an East Canadian port and are now in hospital. (D.S. 505/22/1).

NEMEA (torpedoed 16/1). — Greek NEMEA, 5101 tons, reported to have been torpedoed about 250 miles W. of River Shannon on 16/1, has sunk. (D.S. 506).

Mediterranean.

CLAN CUMMING. — (Torpedoed 19/1) Returned to Piraeus under her own steam having been torpedoed right forward. No casualties. (D.O.R., 23/1).

PENDRECHT. (torpedo 18/12) — Your 1606/20. S.S. PENDRECHT was torpedoed in North Western Approaches. (D.T.D. 1607/22 to S.O.I. Capetown).

Submarines Reported.

Las Palmas. — Italian U/Boat at, supplied with fuel. (See North Atlantic).

0940/22. — 46° N., 7° W., 250' W. by N. of Gironde, indefinite position of Italian U-boat. (D.S. 505).

0940. — My 2306/21. At 0940/22 U boat was in approximate position 046° N. 007° W. (F.O.S., 1022/22, to S/Ms on patrol Area B.)

1506. — D/F bearings on 8500 kc/s at 1506 B.S.T. indicate Italian U-boat in area 37° to 39° N. 16° 30' to 18° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 1545/22 to F.O.C.N.A. FOLKESTONE).

Direction finding bearings at 1506 B.S.T. indicates Italian U-Boat between 037° 00' North and 039° 00' North and 016° 30' West and 018° 30' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1821/22 to S. and A., North Atlantic Station.).

/ 1815. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.1.1941. Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

1815.	By D/F on 8500 kcs. at 1815 B.S.T. Italian U-Boat in position 57° 30' N. 22° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1859/22).
1030Z/15.	United States ship WINDRUSH reports sighting stationary periscope of S/M distance ½ mile painted dark brown at 1030Z/15 in position 018° 040° south 002° 050° west. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1207/22).
2037.	At 2037 B.S.T. Italian U-Boat bore 319 degrees 3rd class from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2105/22 to S. and A. North Atlantic).
Estimated U-Boat dispositions.	German One to N.W. of Cape Verde Is. One about 40 degs. N. 16 degs. W. outward bound. One near Porcupine Bank outward bound. Three between 50 degs. N. and 55 degs. N. probably near 20 degs. W. One near 60 degs. N. 25 degs. W. One 48 degs. N. to 50 degs. N. West of 25 degs. W. No further information of others but probably two to N.W., one to N.E. and one to S.E. of Rockall. Italian One in Las Palmas Canaries One about 150 miles N.E. of Madeira outward bound. Four or five in N.W. Approaches or Atlantic whereabouts unknown but probably to S.W. of Rockall. (D.D.I.C. 1335/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1330.

1330/22. Position 055° 26' N. 008° 46' W. in Asdic contact submarine. Dopplar effect obtained one pattern dropped. Continued the hunt position by dead reckoning only. (LEAMINGTON, 1430/22, to C.in C. W.A.).

LEAMINGTON Asdic Contact in position 055° 26' North 008° 46' West at 1330/22. (C.in C. W.A., 1727/22 to ships in W. App. North).

Join LEAMINGTON hunting Submarine in position 055° 26' North 008° 46' West. (C.in C. W.A., 1735/22, to LINCOLN, WATCHMAN.)

My 1430/22, position of contact now confirmed by bearing Tory Island Light coinciding with wreck chart in position 055° 23' North 008° 38' West. Have passed over contact 8 times and dropped 19 depth charges 12 set to 500 feet. Nothing has come to the surface. Contact has remained in the same position throughout. High explosives effected (Could be "no effective") reports during first attack only.
Definite Doppler report in first 5 attacks.
Propose remain in contact until daylight tomorrow.
(LEAMINGTON, 1835/22 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Western Channel Patrol.	Four destroyers last night patrolled between the longitudes of the Start and Lands Ends.
Operation P.V.One.	This operation was carried out between 2000 and 2359 tonight by 3 M.T.B's.
Engagement with E/Boats.	VALORIUS this evening engaged 3 E/Boats which attacked Convoy F.N. 90 off Lowestoft. The enemy did not return her fire and disappeared.
Operation "Rubble".	Five Norwegian ships, broke out of Goteborg at 1600 today for U.K. Units of the Home Fleet proceeded to sea to locate and protect them, and air search was ordered for tomorrow.
GNEISENAU SCHARNHORST.	It is reported that two large vessels believed to be GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST passed through the Great Belt at 1180 today north bound. Air search has been arranged.
Convoy S.C.19.	The slow convoy from Sydney C.B. is 48 hours late.
Smoke Defence.	The use of smoke for air defence of the Fleet in harbour is being considered, consequent on recent experience in the attack on Messina and development of R.D.F.
Destroyers for Gibraltar.	JERSEY and JUPITER sailed for Gibraltar this afternoon.

MOST SECRET.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Attacks on shipping today included S.S. LANGLEEGORSE (no damage reported), S.S. MOSTYN (abandoned), S.S. LURIGETHAN (on fire and abandoned), all in the Atlantic west of Ireland, and an unknown ship reported bombed and burning in the N.W. Approaches: Sunk Light Vessel (crew evacuated by ELGIN) and COVENTRY CITY (A/S Trawler slightly damaged by near miss near Sunk Light Vessel.

A/P drifter REIDS reports a possible hit on a Dornier 17 with a Holman projector off Brightlingsea.

Two bombs were dropped at Lowestoft without causing damage.

The rescue tug ENGLISHMAN has not been heard of since she reported being attacked by an enemy aircraft 40 miles West of Tory Island on 21/1. A German communique announced the sinking of a British rescue tug.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night took place off the South West Coast and probabl off East Anglia. Estimated 10 aircraft employed.

The Humber is still closed owing to visibility making sweeping impossible. Milford Haven was opened this afternoon.

M/S Trawler RONSO was mined off the South Foreland and M/S Trawler COURTIER was damaged by a mine off Milford Haven today.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Raider Situation.

North Atlantic. On 18/1 one surface raider was approx. 900 miles to south of the Azores possibly outward bound.

South Atlantic. There are at least two enemy units but it is not known if one may be a supply ship. By D/F on 19/1 one was to southward of St. Helena, on 20/1 one was to Eastward of Ascension possibly moving northwards.

Southern Ocean. By D/F on 19/1 one in an area about 56° S., 0 to 10° W.

Admiral Scheer. No further information.

North Atlantic.

Italian Submarine at Las Palmas.

The Italian submarine left Las Palmas at midnight 22/23/am. It is said that the action in which she was damaged took place 4 days before arrival at Las Palmas.

Bad weather prevented flying at Gibraltar.

Mediterranean.

Air Operations.

R.A.F. last night attacked Augusta, Catania and Comiso aerodromes and Syracuse. The harbour at Rhodes was also attacked by Wellingtons which failed to locate their target, the aerodrome at Maritza.

Bombs were dropped harmlessly on Malta last night.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd).

Operations in Libya.

C.in C. Med. reports that the Navy carried out maintenance work and supply of the army in the Western Desert without interruption since 17/1. FIONA and sweepers at Sollum are ready to clear Tobruk Harbour immediately Army control is established. One flight of F.A.A. aircraft is based at Sollum as torpedo bomber striking force. First reports indicate that demolition in Tobruk Harbour is less than was at first anticipated. TERROR left Alexandria for Sollum today.

Operation "Inspection."

ILLUSTRIOUS left Malta at 1930B today for Alexandria, screened by 4 destroyers, which left Suda Bay 21/1. At 0800 ORION, BONAVENTURE, AJAX and two destroyers (left Suda Bay 21/1) were in position 36° N., 24° 28 E., proceeding westward. BARHAM, VALIANT, PERTH and 6 destroyers left Alexandria yesterday to operate west of Crete in support.

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SANDHURST. To proceed to Londonderry to act as Destroyer Depot and Repair Ship. (V.C.N.S. 1253/23.)

Smoke as A/A.Defence of Fleet. Use of smoke for air defence of Fleet in harbour has hitherto been rejected because of time and effort required to produce an adequate screen and also interference with own gunfire. Recent experience in attack of Messina and development of R.D.F. suggest, however, that employment of smoke under favourable conditions is worth considering, particularly at night, when less smoke is needed and direct control of ship's gun-fire is less effective than by day. Request your opinion and that any trials considered desirable may be carried out as opportunity offers. (V.C.N.S. 1706/23 to C. in C.H.F. and C. in C. Med.)

Kites in Rescue Tugs. In view of attack on ENGLISHMAN request you will arrange for kites to be fitted in Rescue Tugs and flown when West of 7° West, (C. in C.W.A.1915/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/23. (D.C.1155/23.)

Invasion)
Exercise)
VICTOR.) C. in C.H.F. 0600/23, 1801/23, C. in C. Portsmouth 0217/23, 1125/23, 1432/23, 1455/23, 1503/23, 1801/23, 1802/23. C. in C.W.A. 0320/23, 0519/23, 0556/23, 0850/23, 1031/23,1034/23, 1326/23, 1749/23, 2325/23,1741/23. C. in C. Rosyth 0254/23, 0256/23,0828/23, 1120/23, 1140/23, 1200/23, 1328/23, 1354/23, 1432/23, 1600/23, 1742/23, 2316/23. C. in C. Nore 0941/23, 1106/23, 1124/23, 1135/23,D.C. 0111/23, 0926/23, 0927/23, 1042/23,1400/23,1814/23. F.O.I.C. Belfast 0002/23, 0013/23. Air Ministry 0005/23, 1141/23. FORESIGHT 0004/23. V.A. Dover 0215/23, 0315/23, 0814/23.F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0101/23, 0956/23.D.S.0116/23. F.O.I.C. Greenock 0415/23. OTTAWA 0501/23.

/H.G.C.C.....

MOST SECRET.

23. i. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Invasion Exercise VICTOR.

H.Q.C.C. 0605/23.
Controller 16 Group 0717/23.
A.C.O.S. 1011/23.
F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 0430/23,1130/23.
Capt. D. Londonderry 1320/23.
F.O. Humber 1416/23.
Admiral Blake 1721/23.
D.D.I.C. 2231/23.
Naval Umpire, Rosyth 2315/23.

Employment of aircraft at Iceland.

G.O.C. informs me function (corrupt group) Norwegian seaplane is army contact and striking force. Request early consideration be given to provision of aircraft to carry out functions previously undertaken by Walrus: oversea r/c. from each defended area, A/S patrol for A.M.C. and transports, investigation of reports at sea. Suggest in addition A/S protection for Northerly convoy routes by small numbers flying boats working from Reykjavik and Reydarfiord. Consider it essential that all aircraft proceeding seaward of coastline should be under naval orders. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1637/23.)

Movements

KELLY
JERSEY
JUPITER
KASHMIR.

Sailed 1630/22 from Plymouth. (C. in C. W.A. 0015/23.)

JERSEY)
JUPITER.)

Request you sail 2 of 5th D.F. for Gibraltar, making best use of dark hours, to arrive PM/26. (A.C.N.S.H. 0043/23 to C. in C. W.A.) Destroyers detailed to return Plymouth arriving Rame Head 1030/23.(C. in C.W.A. 0203/23 to Capt. D.5.) Intend sailing JERSEY and JUPITER for Gibraltar at 1630/23. (C. in C.W.A.1129/23 to Adty.) Route (C. in C.W.A.1515/23 to Adty.) JERSEY, JUPITER sailed 1640.E.T.A. Gibraltar 1300/26 (C. in C.W.A.1819/23 to Adty.)

/J.3968 Cancel.....

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

J.3908. Cancel my 1215/22 and 1703/22. (C. in C. H.F. 0909/23 to AURORA) F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1043/22. Request H.T.A. May Island. (C. in C. Rosyth 1545/23 to Adty.)

MOOLTAN)
WHITSHED) Sailing delayed 24 hours by Fog. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1001/23 to C. in C. Rosyth) My 1452/22. Request same arrangements for 25th.(C. in C. Nore 1125/23 to N.Q.F.C.)

BOREAS. Intend sail 0830/24 for Sheerness via. D.G.Range.(F.O.I.C. London 1243/23 to C. in C. Nore.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler line occupied tonight (one trawler)(A.C.O.S.1931/23.)

UNDAUNTED)
MINERVE.) Should cross bar on flood tide,not earlier than 1100/24. (Capt. S.9. 1713/23.)

Force Z, escort. 1. Your 1655/22. As KASHMIR must boiler clean, KELLY KIPLING and JACKAL will be available. Another destroyer will be attached to D.5. as four destroyers are considered minimum A/S escort.
2. There will, consequently, be no destroyers at Plymouth for several days which in view of the considerable traffic in the Channel is considered most undesirable.3. Propose that two destroyers from the Clyde should be substituted for KELLY and KIPLING.(C. in C. W.A.1907/23 to Adty.)

Operations.

WISA. (Finnish, 3830 Tons.) Have intercepted in 62° 44' N. 15° 48' W.(NORTHERN DIPT 0510/23.) To be sent to Reykjavik under armed guard.(F.O.C.N.P. 1105/23 to Adty.)

/P.V.I. Will.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

P.V.1. Will be carried out tonight from 2000 to 2359 (C. in C. Nore 1103/23.) Sailed M.T.B.'s. 22,30,31 at 2017.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2022/23.)

Inversary Brigade Exercise. Following arrangements for Personnel Ships are being made for 5th to 7th February.(A.D.O.D.1331/23 to V.A.C.P.C.)

Patrols H.K.and H.S. My 0920/23. Patrols are covered by DHOON only. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1415/23 to Adty.)

Operation RUBBLE. Five ships sailing for U.K. 1600/23. (N.A.Stockholm 1510/23 to D.N.I.) My 1056/26/12. 5 Ships sailing 1600/23. (D.O.D.H.1745/23 to C. in C.H.F.,etc.) Adty. 1056/26/12. 5 Ships reported sailed from Goteborg at 1600/23. Approximate speeds. C.S.15 in NAIAD with AURORA to proceed when ready through Position Z.Z. to endeavour to locate and protect. Force should not operate Eastward of 5° E. and to withdraw to Westward after dark. C.S.18 in EDINBURGH with BIRMINGHAM will be operating in support. (C. in C.H.F. 1927/23 to C.S.15.) My 1510/23. Ships have sailed (N.A.Stockholm 1947/23 to D.N.I.) My 1745/23. Ships have sailed. (D.O.D.H.2255/23 to C. in C. H.F.) My 1927/23. C.S.18 in EDINBURGH, with BIRMINGHAM, ESCAPADE, ECHO, and ELECTRA to proceed when ready, passing through 59° N. 3° E. at 1400/24, cruising to South-westward until 1600/24 and then shaping course for Scapa if no information received. C. in C. Rosyth requested to arrange Fighter Escort from daylight /24 for as long as possible.(C. in C. H.F. 2311/23 to C.S.18.) Request Air Search to report RUBBLE and Enemy Forces approaching Area from direction Horns Reef and Skaggerack during daylight/24. (C. in C.H.F. 2324/23 to C. in C.Rosyth Sailed from Scapa 2250/23.NAIAD with AURORA (A.C.O.S.2331/23.)

/E-Boats.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

E.-Boats. 3 E-Boats engaged in 52° 27' N.2° 3' E. Enemy did not return fire and disappeared. (VALOROUS 2111/23 to C. in C. Nore.)

Submarines.

SEALION. My 1011/22 and F.O.Number 1203/23. R/V postponed till 1000/25. (S.6. 1533/23 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Positions. At 0800/24. (F.O.S.1742/23.)

TITANIA MAIDSTONE. 479. My 1752/21. Most desirable that the distribution of S/M Depot Ships should be completed before the invasion season becomes advanced. To ensure TITANIA reaching Gibraltar before the middle of March I would be quite prepared to dispense with the proposed docking of MAIDSTONE. C. If any possibility of completion date of TYNE being delayed, request consideration to releasing MAIDSTONE from her present duties without relief.(F.O.S. 2303/23. to Adty.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. FAIR cancelled. UNIT delayed. (C. in C. Rosyth 1000/23.)

Shooting down of own A/C. Your 1956/22. Request Board of Enquiry forthwith into circumstances in which Blenheim Aircraft of 139 Squadron was engaged and destroyed.
2/3 Arrangements.

Board of Inquiry. (D. of L.D. 1221/23 to C. in C. Nore.)

FURIOUS. Subject to machinery being satisfactory on arrival, FURIOUS to embark following A/C at Tail of the Bank. (D.N.A.D. 1226/23 to FURIOUS.)

Lorient. AP.783/23/1. Repeat tonight operation ordered for Night 22/23. (H.Q.C.C. 1245/23.)

/Recognition.....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Recognition of A/C by Convoy Escorts.

C. in C. W.A. 1313/22., Consider most undesirable that ships should be prohibited from firing at an unrecognised aircraft until it is within 3,000 yards range. Lack of success achieved by the enemy in daylight attacks on east coast convoys is considered to be due largely to the fact that escorts have been able to fire on such aircraft in plenty of time. (C. in C. Rosyth 1847/23 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

LANGLEE GORSE.

(British, 4524 Tons.) Attacked in 53° 19' N. 13° 11' W. (Portishead 1000/23.)

ENGLISHMAN.

No further news this morning (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1050/23 to C. in C. W.A.) Tug last heard of 40 miles West of Tory Island being attacked by A/C. Keep look out for her or survivors (A.C.W.A.1523/23.) Enemy broadcast have claimed to have sunk a Tug going to help a bombed M/V. (D.D.I.C. 1736/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Lowestoft.

At 1105 a single A/C, believed Junkers 88, dropped 2 H.E. Bombs at root of Claremont Pier. No damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1152/23.)

M/V. bombed.

Detail one ship to investigate M/V reported bombed and burning in 56° 10'N. 16° 50' W. at 1115/23.(C. in C. W.A. 1223/23 to ANTELOPE.)

MOSTYN.

(British 1859 Tons) Bombed in 54° 37' N. 14° 35' W. Crew abandoning Ship. (A.O.C.No. 42.(M) Group. Recd.1246 and 1300/23.)

/Proceed.....

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

MOSTYN. Contd.	Proceed to assist (C. in C.W.A. 1307/23 to SHIKARI) Sailed SALVONIA from Campbeltown to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1550/23 to C. in C.W.A.) Have found no trace in position indicated. Intend rejoining convoy if search still unsuccessful at midnight.(HESPERUS 2205/23.)
Sunk Light Vessel.	Bombed. Crew being evacuated by ELGIN. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1304/23.)
COVENTRY CITY.	(A/S. Trawler) Slightly damaged by near miss Bomb. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1304/23, to C. in C. Nore.)
LURIGETHAN.	(British, 3564 Tons.) Bombed and on fire in 53° 46' N. 16° W. (Port Patrick 1311/23.) Abandoning ship(Lyness W/T. 1429/23.) Proceed to assist (C. in C.W.A. 1437/23 to ARABIS.) Sailed PRUDENT from Campbeltown to assist. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1550/23.)
TEMPLE MEAD.	Arrived CAMELIA with Survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1340/23.)
REIDS.	(A/P Drifter) Reports possible hit on Dornier 17 with Holman Projector in 51° 41' 36" N. 1° 20' 30" E. at 1200/22. (SOAP. Brightlingsea 1640/23 to C. in C. Nore.)
LLANWERN.	(4986 tons) was damaged by air attack at Avonmouth 16/1. (DOR).

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sweep by 5th M/S.F.

Cancel my 2215/20. Operation ordered in my 2237/16 postponed and is now to commence at dusk Tuesday 28th Tuesday January completing by dark 29/1. (C. in C. Rosyth 1105/23 to M/S.S.)

Sunk Light Vessel.

A Mine is reported dropped ½ cable East of the Sunk Light Vessel.(D.S.507.)

B.S.50.

Intend to sail from Rosyth at 0845/24 and take departure for initial position from 21 C buoy at 1345/14. Returning to 21 C Buoy and thence to Humber. Laying will begin at 1545/24. (TEVIOT BANK 1118/23.)

Humber.
INTREPID.

My 1440/21. Anticipate Humber will remain closed until 1200 tomorrow Friday owing to visibility making sweeping impossible. Consequently sailing of INTREPID is delayed.(F.O.Humber 1203/23.)

Milford Haven.

Port will be opened at 1400 today subject to local restrictions. Except to I.C.S. Ships.(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1258/23.) 3 Mines detonated by M/S Trawler and one spontaneous Explosion on 23/1.(D.S.507.)

IMPULSIVE.

Proceed to Humber timing your arrival so as not to arrive before 1200/24. (C. in C. Rosyth 1453/23 to IMPULSIVE.)

Sails Methil at 2300 for Humber. (C. in C. Rosyth 1944/23.)

/RONSO.....

Incorrectly reported mined. Vide V.A.Dover 1029/7/2/41.

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

COURTIER. (M/S Trawler) Damaged by Mine on 23/1 in Milford Haven. (D.S.507.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coast 13/1, 15/1, 16/1. WILK reports between 13/1 and 15/1 the following lights were observed burning at various times. Olesvaeg, Skarve, Tellevag, Marsten, Tokselen. On the 16th two groups of fishing vessels were near 60° 13' N. 4° 49' (F.O.S. 1028/23.)

Unidentified Vessels. Following have not been identified. One small slow vessel bearing 292°. 8 Miles course 240° at 0219/23. One small slow Vessel bearing 300° Distance 9 miles course 040° at 0245/23. Both from Fair Isle. (A.C.O.S.1205/23.)

Lethal Gas. N.A. Budapest 1445/21. See Mediterranean.

Brest. 22/1. 1 HIPPER - class cruiser in dry dock. (D.D.I.C. 1649/23.)

Ice Report. N.A.S. Stockholm 1803/23.

N.W.Coast of Norway. Air R/C of N.W. Coast of Norway on 21/1, gave the following results:- In area 64° 30' N. 10° 00' E to 66° N. 12° E. 6 ships, 5 proceeding North.

At BODO 1 M.V. 4-5000 tons at anchor off shore. 1 M.V. about 4000 tons approaching from S.W. No sign of activity on aerodrome.

In VESTFIORDEN. About 90' S.W. Narvik 1 MV 6000 tons. course North.
About 65' S.W. Narvik 2 Ocean Going tugs. Course North.
About 45' W x S Narvik 2 MVs.4000 tons, 1 loaded Course W. 1 unloaded. Course East.

/LAVANGSFIORD.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. Contd.

LAVANGSFIORD.	(About 25' W. of Narvik) 1 MV.6000 tons and 3 or 4 smaller MV's.
NARVIK.	5 ships between 3000 and 6000 tons, and 12 smaller vessels of coasting type. 1 MV.6000 tons by jetty at railhead. (D.D.I.C. 1916/23 and 2354/23.)
Convoy off Stavanger.	From W.T.I. there is a possibility that a convoy may be moving northward on the Norwegian Coast and may be near Stavanger at 1800 tonight.(D.D.I.C. 1918/23 to C. in C.H.F.)(F.O.S.1949/23 to O.23.)
Enemy M/V.	German merchant ship 7700 tons was expected to leave Aalesund about 22/1 for Bergen.(F.O.S. 2001/23 to O.23.)
E-Boat.	1 Enemy Motor Boat position 52° 17' N. 1° 58' E. (VESPER 2119/23.)
Enemy M/V.	At 1400/22 in 52° 46' N. 2° 3'E. one 6000-Ton M/V. being towed backwards by 2 Tugs. Thought to be heading West. (H.Q.B.C.Recd.2221/23.)

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

O.B.277.	CORSAIR and 2 M.V.'s Sailed 0700/23/1/41 in convoy to join O.B. 277 at R/V D two. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0845/23.)
F.S.92.	11 Ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0932/23.)
W.N.73A.	My 0909/21 and N.C.S.O. Oban's 2105/22. JASON is to return from Scapa with W N 73 A, code word LIMITED, escorts SOUTHERN PRIDE and PENTLAND FIRTH due Duncansby Head 1000/23. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1101/23, to JASON.)
W.N.73(O)	Sailed 1430/23. Escort from Bloody Bay onwards SOUTHERN PRIDE, PENTLAND FIRTH. 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1531/23.)
E.N.61.	(a) 0100/24, H.M.T's ELLESMERE and SALTRELLO, additional escort HASTINGS, 18 ships. (8 overseas.) Code words:- E.N.61, E.N.L. Portion E.N.O. Portion. MIGHT, MONITOR, MIXTURE. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1131/23.)
E.N.60.	My 0941/23 E.N.60, (para.(B) delete FOXTROT and add PIROUETTE. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1131/23.)
E.N.60.	(a) 1200/23. (b) H.M.T's GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE, RUMBA additional escort JASON (c) 14 ships, 2 ships for Clyde. 3 with Kites. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1511/23 to A.C.W.A.)

/P.N. and F.S.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

F.N. and F.S.Escorts.

My 1148/22.

F N.	F S	
-	95	PUFFIN.
91	96	WIDGEON.
92	-	SNAPDRAGON.
94		PUFFIN.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1132/23.)

F.N.92. Am anchored with convoy F.N.92. 4 ships in company. Thick fog. (WOLFHOUND, 1220/23 to C. in C.Nore.)

FF.N.90. 1046/23. 21 ships.(N.O.S.O.Thames, 1244/23.)

E.N.60.
F.S.94.
F.S.95.
W.N.72.A.
E.N.61. E.N.60. sailed 1200 and will be met off Cruden Scaurs by 19th M/S Group who will then sweep ahead of F.S.94 sailing 1400 Due 20 C Buoy 0300/24. F.S. 95 sails 2300, W N 72 A, one ship only, off Noss Head 2000, E N 61 sails 0100/24. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1532/23.)

C.E.23. My 1557/22. C.E.23 sailed 1515/23. Amendments to ships. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1557/23.) List and destinations. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1607/23.)

F.S.94. Sailed 1430/23. 24 ships. 3 ships with Kites. Numbers are approximate. (N.O.S.O. Methil, 1615/23.)

O.B.O.277. 0700/24/1. Escort VERBENA.12 ships. (N.O.S.O. Oban, 1715/23.)

O.B.M.278. Ships, destinations and E.T.A. (N.O.S.O. Milford H.,1720/23.)

O.B.M.278. 1700/23 H.M.T. DERBY COUNTY. Three. One with kite. (N.O.S.O. Milford H.,1754/23.)

/F.S.92.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

F.S.92. F.S. 92 weighed and proceeded. (LONDONDERRY 2253/23, to C. in C. Nore.)

F.S.95. Sailed. 38 ships. Ships with kites unknown. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 2331/23.)

Ocean Convoys.

S. L. 61. Londonderry departure 23/1 AYRSHIRE for S L 61. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0959/23.)

S. L. 61B. Request you sail LEEDS UNITED to endeavour to meet S L 61 B, estimated to reach position in W A C I 269 E part one para. 2 at 2200/23. (C. in C. W.A., 1213/23, to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

S. C. 19. 48 hours late. 19 ships in convoy. (AURANIA, 1100/23, to C. in C.W.A.)

S.C.19 is 48 hours late. ANTHONY and ANTELOPE are to leave O.B.276 at 1000/24 and refuel at Lough Foyle then proceed to meet S.C.19. Other escorts remain with with O.B.276, leaving in time to meet S.C.19 in 55° 12' N. 21° 52 W. at 1100/26. (C. in C.W.A., 1806/23, to ANTHONY, ANTELOPE, PICOTEE, HEATHER PEGASUS.

U. G. 50. Your 1307 re S.S.MOSTRIN, HESPERUS and SHIKARI in position 055° 52' N, 011° 36' W, searching for H.G.50. Am proceeding assistance of bombed ship as SHIKARI is short of fuel, (weather) (HESPERUS 1416/23, to C. in C. W.A.)

/Positions.....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Ocean Convoys.
Positions.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

My 1831/26/9, cancel 54° N. 20° W and substitute 51° N. and 30° W. Positions on ocean routes as far as 7° W, are to be included in VESCA signals. (D.T.D. 1640/23 to A.I.C.48.)

Evasive Steering.

Some Commodores have pointed out that, when carrying out evasive steering with columns 3 cables apart, the distance between columns sometimes becomes dangerously small if alterations of course are made by the methods ordered in your 1943/9/12/40. (M.C.S.O. Freetown 1539/22. to Admty.)

Independent Sailings Special Protection.

To enable all possible protection or cover to be provided for Merchant Vessels sailing independently and carrying (1) 100 or more Service personnel (2) 1,000 or more tons of War Material (3) specially valuable stores or high officials or (4) ships of particular importance. Authorities addressed should keep each other and Adty informed of a forecast of all such movements by signal at approximately weekly intervals. Adty. will initiate similar signals for outward bound ships. (4) Ships in Troop Convoys, single Troop ships and ships carrying special supplies when escorted by H.M. Ships are not affected by above procedure and will continue to be reported to authorities concerned as at present. (D.T.D. 1628/23.)

All signals giving sailing dates and routes of independent ships should include A.C.O.S. in addressees and should be repeated to S.O.H.P. Trawlers, Kirkwall. (D.T.D. 1941/23, to A.I.G. 47.)

/MILITARY.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

MILITARY CONVOYS.

S. L. 61.B.

Your 0915/23. As it is improbable that LEEDS UNITED will be able to overtake S.L.61B AYRSHIRE is to escort Bristol Channel ships to destination unless relieved by LEEDS UNITED. VETERAN escort Liverpool ships to destination. (C. in C. W.A. 1505/23 to VETERAN.)

SOMERSETSHIRE.

330. Your 1331/22. No information had been received of SOMERSETSHIRE'S route. It has now been ascertained as follows from Clyde through Minches.(C. in C. W.A. 1543/23 to A.C.O.S.

W.S.6.

My 2318/21. W.S.6 delayed 48 hours and will not be ready to sail until February 7th. (D.O.D.H. 1604/23.)

T.C.9.

5 Ships. Movements, Escorts, Communications. (A.C.N.S.H. 1635/23.)
See Operations Volume.

Troop Convoys
Force Z.

Admiralty's 1655/22. Time and position of rendezvous K.(A.C.N.A.,2323/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CAMELIA. TIERCEL.	Arrived CAMELIA with survivors from TEMPLE MEAD and TIERCEL with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1340/23.)
PASS OF LENY.	(British Tanker, 795 Tons.) Is safe but has extensive bottom damage and is leaking in most compartments. Engine room partly flooded but under control of salvage pumps. Rudder gone. Petrol and paraffin cargo will be transferred to PASS OF BALLATER. Estimated temporary repairs to enable proceed to repair port will take at least two weeks. METINDA in attendance carrying out repairs. (C.S.V.O. Scapa 1700/23 to A.C.O.S.)
BREDA.	(Yacht) While boiler cleaning alongside Princes Pier has been badly damaged by S.S. EMPIRE RAINBOW. Estimated time for repairs not yet known. (F.O.S. 1831/23.)
PICOTEE. (Corvette)	Have struck submerged object in 56° 05' N. 017° 12' W.? (carrying sway) dome and transmitter. Ship making water. Request permission to return to harbour. (PICOTEE 2015/23 to ANTELOPE.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Raiders. Situation (my 1756/16). (D.D.I.C., 1920/23 to C.in C's - See Situation Report.)

Operations Against Vichy French.

GUADELOUPE Following from Navy department from Havana, 19/1. Report German S/M sighted position 21° 58' N. and 81° 23' W. German (?COLOMBIA) Courier sailed for Mexico 17/1. From Fort de France, French Ship GUADELOUPE sailed for Guadeloupe 18/1.
(N.A. Washington, 1055/23, to Admty.)

French Convoy. French armed trawler CAPITAINE ARMAND passed Gibraltar 0830/23, direction not reported, escorting French M.V's MONTAIGNE, 2770 tons, IMERETHIE II, 3713 tons, and EDEA, 3747 tons. (D.O.R. 24/1).

Ships not to be sent to S. African ports. My No. 125/62 of 15/11 as amended by South Atlantic Station message 1330 of 30/12 and 1420 of 17/1 (none to Admiralty). Vichy French merchant ships are not to be sent into any port in Union of South Africa except Simonstown.
(C.in C. S.A. 2035N/23, to S. Atlantic Station.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

OSIRIS. My 1556/13. Has OSIRIS arrived?
(F.O.C.N.A. 0946/23 to C.in C. Portsmouth.

Italian U/B, Las Palmas. Italian submarine still in port, endeavouring to ascertain reason why.
(Consul, Las Palmas 1125/23, to Admty.)

Min. for For. Aff. informs Embassy that Italian submarine at Las Palmas has damage to double bottom and vertical rudder and has been given five days to repair damage to be fit to navigate. (N A Madrid 1800/23)

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE
etc. My 1750/22 (ships unable to enter harbour owing to gale). Vessels entered harbour at 1050/23. (F.O.C.N.A. 1128/23).

Admty. 1655/22. Anticipated dates of sailing and escort. (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty., 1838/23) See Operations Vol.
Your 1838/23. Requirements for VELOX, VIDETTE, FAULKNOR, FORESTER. Not available for Gibraltar on date required. (C.in C. S.A. to F.O.C.N.A. 1947N/23)
See Operations Volume.

Patrol Area. C.W.O. 33 paragraph 21 not issued to F.O.C. Northern Patrol. Amend Western Patrol Trawler area Y 3 to read bounds on the south by parallel 036° 15' N. on the west by Meridian 008° 00' W. on the north and east by line drawn 10 miles distant from coast. (F.O.C.N.A., 1607/23, to Admty. F.O.C.N.P.)

Air Patrols. No flying carried out owing to weather. (200 Group 1700/23).

MARON Request gate at 1830 and tug. (Defect). My 2120/22, amend e.t.a. to 1730 G.M.T. (MARON, 1630/23 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

Gibraltar arrival 1930/23 MARON with engine defect.
(S.O.I. Gib., 2020/23).

OTUS. Position of submarines at 0800/24 and movement for following 24 hours.
(a) OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1728/23).

/ ORION ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ORION)
BELGIQUE) (Shipping) Routes. (F.O.C.N.A. 1800/23.)

South Atlantic.

SOBIESKI
KENYA — Your 1247/21. Approved.
2. Your 1823/20 approved.
3. My 1050/19. Cable and Wireless Limited request (names) ~~return~~ to U.K.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0047/23 to C.in C. S.A.).

W.S.5B.
Cabin
Accommodation. (D. of S.T. 0204/23 to C.in C. S.A.).

Troopships,
Drydocking. — My 1728/19. In view of importance of (A) utilising all homeward cargo space and (B) minimizing strain on U.K. drydocks etc., request early report as to sailing dates from Cape if ORANTO and VICEROY OF INDIA were to drydock at Durban and subsequently load cargo to capacity and DUCHESS OF ATHOLL were to load cargo also.
What further delay would result if STRATHNAVER and STRATHALLAN were also to drydock?
(D. of S.T. 0205/23 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

JEAN L.D. — C.in C. S.A. 1011N/23 1106/23, S.N.O. Simonstown 1532B/23 1843B/23, see French Merchant Ships.

CLAN MACNAUGHTON. — Overdue shipping, my 1135/20, CLAN MACNAUGHTON arrived Capetown.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1025B/23).

MENDOZA
DORSETSHIRE
DEVONSHIRE
DRAGON
DELHI .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

MENDOZA
DORSETSHIRE
DEVONSHIRE
DRAGON
DELHI

Your 1252/22.
Present instructions are:-
(a) MENDOZA to proceed to Ascension arriving about 27/1, (my 2233/19.)(See also French Merchant Ships).
(b) DORSETSHIRE proceed St.Helena arriving about 25/1, fuel, thence to Freetown passing Ascension about 27/1.
(11) DEVONSHIRE and DRAGON will be at St.Helena 28/1 and can be at Ascension, DEVONSHIRE 27/1 DRAGON 28/1? DELHI will be available in Freetown neighbourhood.
(111) Intention was to provide (?onward) escort and cover for French ships from Ascension out of these forces.
(1V) There is fuel at St.Helena if desired to send French ships elsewhere - Cape or Lagos.
(V) If other instructions are intended request they may be sent at once as if DORSETSHIRE delays longer she will not be at Freetown in time to comply with your 1749/17. Suggest W/T silence be maintained by DORSETSHIRE if possible. This had been complete since leaving Freetown 8/1.
(C.in C. S.A. 1123M/23, to Admty.)

Concur with the instructions contained in your 1123/23.
Cancel A.T. 1252/22.
(D.O.D.(F) 1818/23 to C.in C. S.A.).

Suspicious Ship.

Punta Arenas 19/1 unrecognized tanker passed towards Atlantic.
(S.O.I., Montevideo, 1144/23).

Suspicious Ship, WINDRUSH.

U.S. ship WINDRUSH reports when steering 136° at 1000Z/6, in 8° 0' N. 27° 50' W. sighted a strange ship similar in appearance to Dutch ELANDSFONTEIN (description). Sighted on port bow heading 000° apparently stopping later passed 5 miles astern at high speed in direction of Cape Verdi.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1156/23 to Admty.)

/ SARTHE ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

SARTHE. Southbound ship crossing 20° North for Plate. Approximate noon position, 24/1 and Route.
(D.T.D. 1248/23 to S.A. Station.)

ALCANTARA. Your 1917/20.
Following improvements are being carried out in ALCANTARA.
(D.O.D.(F) 1258/23 to C.in C. S.A.)

Enemy Units. My 1359/22. D/F bearings indicate following.
Unit A was within 150 miles 013° S (?013° or 030°)W. at 2136/22.
Raider who was in vicinity of 057° S. 012° W. at 2217/18 has moved to within 150 miles 053° S. 032° W. Reliability 60%. Within 300 miles radius 90%.
This unit will be referred to as D.
A possible U-boat within 80 miles 000° 30' N. 019° W. at 0016/23.
(C.in C. S.A., 1337N/23).

At 2137/23 G.M.T. on 8470 Kcs and unknown enemy unit bore from Cupar 200/3.
Text of message UU ZNAUVUZ.
(D.D.I.C. 2352/23 to C.in C. S.A.).

Re Convoys. N.C.S.O. Freetown 1539/22. See Ocean Convoys.

MURJEK. It is desired that Swedish ship MURJEK now at Santos should proceed to Gothenburg via Freetown in order there to land Norwegian members of the crew who do not wish to go to Sweden.
Master agrees but has been told by owners to go to Pernambuco for orders.
Please arrange for owners to authorise call at Freetown. (D.E.W.D. 1646/23 to N.A. Stockholm).

/ VIDETTE
W.S.5B .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

VIDETTE
W.S.5B. — Departure 1800/23 VIDETTE to rendezvous with W.S.5B at 0600/24. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1957N/23 to Admty.)

VIDETTE)
VELOX)
FAULKNOR)
FORESTER) — Requirements for. (C.in C. S.A., 1947N/23 to F.O.C.N.A.) See Operations Vol.

Mediterranean.

Air Report, Comiso, Catania, Augusta, Syracuse raided. — Special Operational Summary.
All times G.M.T.
Following R.C. 21/1 of Sicilian Aerodromes, 6 Wellingtons despatched in 2 separate sections to attack Comiso and Catania night 22/3 Jan. First 3 detailed to attack Comiso but only 1 aircraft located target due to clouds. Remained 1 hour over target.
(H.Q. Med., 0715/23).

UNIQUE
UPHOLDER — My 1255/13 para. 4. Leave patrol P.M./25 through 033° 05' 013° 00' 035° 31' 014° 14' to arrive off Marsamxett Harbour 0700 A/27 making a short area report when considered safe to do so after crossing lat. 035°. UPHOLDER will leave Malta P.M./24 through 035° 38' 014° 07' approx. course 230°.
(S.O.(S) Malta, 1213/23, to UNIQUE).

Air R.C. of Genoa required. — Air reconnaissance of Genoa to establish position of warships in harbour is urgently required.
(D.D.I.C. 1217/23 to V.A. Malta).

/ RECENT ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

REGENT. Leave patrol forthwith and proceed through 033° 00' 024° 36' to arrive Alexandria sanctuary 0500/26. British forces will be to northwards of you during 25th. Tobruk is captured and British forces are to be expected between this port and Alexandria continuously. (Capt. S.1, 1500/23, to REGENT).

Air Report. Tobruk, Derna. Capture of Tobruk. Operational Summary No. 227 up to 1200 hours 23/1. 1. Egypt day 21/1. Further report 31,000 lbs. of bombs dropped on Tobruk defences and gun positions by 31 Blenheim sorties. Night 21/22/1. 8 Wellingtons dropped 23 750 lbs. of bombs on Derna Day 22/1. 7 Blenheims dropped 7,000 lbs. of bombs on Derna hitting barracks and W/T Station. 7 Blenheims dropped 7000 lbs. of bombs on Apollonia barracks. Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols over Acroma and Tobruk areas and provided protective patrols for Blenheims bombing Apollonia and H.M. destroyers operating off coast there. Army captured Tobruk with estimated 15,000 prisoners. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1519/23).

ILLUSTRIOUS SOUTHAMPTON Information would be of great value concerning recent air attacks on Mediterranean Fleet including ILLUSTRIOUS and SOUTHAMPTON. Experience on following points would be of special interest. (C.in C. H.F., 1531/23 to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. 2010 to 2113 4 aircraft flew over or near Malta separately. Searchlights did not expose and enemy apparently unable to locate the Island. Only 2 bombs on land caused neither damage nor casualties. Part 2 Reconnaissance. 0540 to 1030 Swordfish Anti-ship Patrol between Malta and Tunisian Coast. No ships seen. 1103 to 1250 Spitfire photo "reco" Tripoli Harbour and Castel Benito Aerodrome. Tripoli 8 large M/V's 2 Tankers 9 small M/V's 2 destroyers 2 torpedo boats. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/23 to Air Ministry).

/ URSULA. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

URSULA.

Pass through positions 038° 30' 007° 30' 038° 08' 011° 12' 037° 30' 011° 12' 036° 55' 012° 00' thence direct to 180° Filfola Is. 5 miles to arrive off Marsamxett harbour (date).
U-boat patrols have been reported as being maintained to west south and east of Pantellaria.
(S.O.(S) Malta, 1821/23 to URSULA).

ILLUSTRIOUS.

ILLUSTRIOUS, JERVIS, JANUS, JUNO, GREYHOUND left Malta 1930B/23.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1839/23).

Tobruk Operations. DIEGO sunk.

My 1847/19. Maintenance (?work) and supplies of Army in Western Desert continued without interruption since 17/1.
(ii) Bombardment preliminary to attack on Tobruk carried out by TERROR and gunboat night of 20/21. Earlier bombardment stopped by bad weather.
(iii) Destroyers and REGENT to westwards of Tobruk patrolled to prevent communications. Italian schooner DIEGO sunk off Tobruk night of 21/22nd, ten prisoners in VAMPIRE.
(iv) FIONA and sweeper at Sollum ready to clear Tobruk Harbour immediately Army control established.
(v) One flight Fleet Air Arm aircraft based at Sollum as torpedo bomber striking force.
(vi) First reports indicate (?demolition) in Tobruk Harbour less than at first (corrupt group) anticipated.
(C.in C. Med., 1915/23).

S/M Obstructions.

Greek submarines have reported a single wire scraping against hull in following positions with reference to Fano Island Light 326° 46, 309° 15½, 306° 13, 300° 10, 288° 22, 246° 8.
(Capt. S.1, 1945/23, to RORQUAL).

RORQUAL.

Following from B.N.A. Athens. (Begins). Ref. return of RORQUAL; Greek submarine will be southbound through straits of Otranto night of 30/31/1. After night 26/27 Greek submarine will operate all across Adriatic but south of 42 N. T.O.O. 2100/23. (Ends.)
(S.O.(S) Malta Force, 2213/23, to RORQUAL).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Japanese Ships.
YAMAHUZI MARU
GOSEI MARU

My 1118/16, 1052/21 (not to Admiralty) and 1054/21 (to Admiralty and F.O.C.R.I.N.) are being passed to C.O.S. Singapore.
Request confirmation that vessel referred to by Director of Censorship was GOSEIMARU as it is unusual for a Japanese vessel of this size to trade on East Indies Station.
Suggest it might be YAMAHUZI MARU which was heard calling MANTAI MARU (Basra to Rangoon) on 500 kc/s on 18th 19th and 20/1.
Request C.O.S. Singapore will report movements if known of both YAMAHUZI MARU and GOSEIMARU.
(C.in C. E.I., 0612/23, to Admty.)

Convoy W.S.5A.

Re Escort from Durban to Suez (C.in C. E.I. 0816/23) See Operations Volume.

Contraband Control Persian Gulf.

1. Introduction of navicert system for Iran and Iraq and exercise of contraband control in Persian Gulf is under consideration here. Under this system ships found without Ship Navicerts are sent in.
2. Number of ocean-going ships likely to be without Ship Navicert is small. Dhow trade may, however, be quite considerable. Larger dhows sail direct from Portuguese East Africa to places within the Gulf. Others pick cargoes landed from larger vessels at Hadhramaut, Muscat or various little known places in Gulf of Oman (and possibly Karachi.
3. Subject to your concurrence, proposed that representative of M.E.W. be sent to Bahrein to collect war trade intelligence.
4. It is presumed that you could conveniently undertake interception of ocean going ships with your present forces in Gulf without interfering with other important requirements.
5. Your 1746/25/8 and my 1701/6/10/1940, it is not considered necessary to establish a contraband control base in the Gulf itself. Ocean going vessels would be diverted to Karachi.
6. Dhows could be dealt with at Bahrein by M.E.W. representative there. Request your

/ remarks ..

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Contraband Control Persian Gulf (Contd.)	remarks on method of controlling dhow traffic and whether useful and feasible to man and arm a few fast dhows, if M.E.W. representative considers volume of trade warrants this. (Head of M. 1148/23 to C.in C. E.I.)
U.S.8.	S.S. CITY OF LINCOLN with mail, motor trucks, grain and general and S.S. THURLAND CASTLE with motor trucks, general, paper and wire joined U.S.8 for Suez off Aden. Southern Red Sea escort for U.S.C, CARLISLE, CAPETOWN, KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY, YARRA. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 1211/23. to Admty.).
	23/1 arrival 0900Z CAPETOWN, departure 1040Z YARRA, 1240Z CAPETOWN, for U.S.8. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1246Z/23, to Admty. etc.)
Force K.	Admty. 0300/22. Intend that FORMIDABLE and HAWKINS should form Force K. (C.in C. E.I., 1306Z/23 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, etc.).
GALILEO GALILEI	Reported that prize proceedings were instituted at Aden against Italian S/M GALILEO GALILEI. If so report details and reasons as such action is seldom necessary when a man-of-war is captured. Did she carry any cargo? (D.E.W.D. 1645/23 to N.O.I.C. Aden).
Enemy Unit.	Your 1654/22. Request frequency used, also preamble and text of message. (D.D.I.C. 1832/23, to C.in C. E.I.)
Force K.	Your 1109/18. E.T.A. Aden. (C.in C. E.I., 1844Z/23 to C.in C. Med.) (See Operations Volume).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Intelligence.	Far East week 14. (c) Undeclared war between Thai and Indo China. Naval engagement in Gulf of Siam
Siam Naval Action.	17/1. French claim 3 Thai torpedo boats sunk, other craft damaged and no French casualties. (d) Measures to sustain Japanese morale (e) Marked increase Japanese Naval Operational W/T Traffic maintained since 16/1.
Raider.	(f) Raider in Indian Ocean. Recent D/F fix showed supposed raider unit (1) Kergtolen 12/13 January. (2) S.E. of Durban 15/1 (3) 57° S. 10° W. 18/1. (4) 26° S. 10° W. 19/1.
Indo-China Shipping.	(g) Shipping. First French ship to sail from Indo China under new agreement arrived Singapore 17/1. (Capt. O.3., Singapore, 02222/23).
N.E.I. Navy.	Interview with Admiral Helfrich. (C.in C. China 02352/23 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.
Air Bases, Sembawang, Penang.	My 0821/17. (?0841/17 Sembawang Air Base) To ensure completion in time essential to produce outline of designs at once without awaiting Admiralty Officer. Further essential to obtain steel works forthwith. (Proposals). (C.in C. China, 09032/23, to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

DUCHESS OF YORK ORONTES WARWICK CASTLE	Your 1242/13, 1356/15 and 1201/16. Numbers to be accommodated. Additional ships for T.C.9. (D.S.T. 1201/23 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) See Operations Vol.

/ PATELLA, ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

PATELLA, explosion report. My 2256/20 Trinidad reports that further investigation suggests shock not due to enemy action. Possibly subterranean disturbance or quarry blasting Sombrero. (S.O.I., Kingson, 1024/23 to Admty.)

Suspected Raider. Your 1628/21. My 1146/18 was request for information re 22,000 tons ship, see N.A. Washington meassage 1001/8. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1249/23, to D.N.I. Ottawa).

COLD HARBOR. My 1424/22. S.S. COLD HARBOR will travel from Cape Henry to Cadiz via the regular winter ocean track for ships going to Gibraltar. From Cadiz to Barcelona and Marseilles, her speed and course will be subject to local conditions in those areas. (Head of M. 1414/23 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Curacao W/T. Your 1716/6. (Proposals to make use of Netherlands W/T Station, Curacao). Approved. (Head of M. 1527/23 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Use of D/F by Convoys. Your a137/21. Concur. (D.T.D. 1615/23 to R.A. 3 B.S.).

FORMOSA. Your 1628/12.10.40. New York reports Captain Swedish FORMOSA received telegram from owners in Sweden directing to proceed to Buenos Aires to load for Gothenborg and to watch his wireless for further instructions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1710/23, to Admty.)

COMORIN. Intend sailing COMORIN for Freetown a.m./25 routed via Bermuda and refuelling Trinidad so that ship may be of greater operation value while in South Atlantic. E.T.A. Bermuda Trinidad. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1756/23, to C.in C. S.A.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

HOBART.	HOBART escorting AORANGI and NIEUW AMSTERDAM departed Sydney for Auckland 23/1. (A.C.N.B. Melbourne, 05212/23, to Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ELBE. Yokohama 22/1 ELBE reported loading approximately 4200 tons oil fuel. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 00532/23 to Admty.)

CONSUL HORN. Reported loading fish at Kristiansund North on 17/1 and was expected at Aalesund on 19/1 spending 3 days loading there and then to proceed to Bergen and Hamburg with 7000 tons coal. (D.S. 507, 24/1).

ARKADIA. Tetanbul 23/1 departures, German ARKADIA. (Galatz, 1312/23).

SPEZIA
ATLAS
TINOS

Arrival 21/1. German steamer SPEZIA from Marseilles, 23/1 German Steamer ATLAS. Departure 22/1. German steamer SPEZIA carrying about 700 tons of coal for transhipment German Steamer TINOS. (Valencia, T.H.I., 2330/23).

CRETE Danish, 1563 tons, at Valencia, reported is to be employed in German interests between Spanish ports and Genoa. Has recently been docked. (D.S. 507).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

BURMA. Consul Cadiz reports Italian Steamship BURMA blown ashore near Puerto Sant Maria night 21/22 will be total wreck. (N.A. Madrid, 1700/23, to Admty.)

MAURO CROCE. Arrival 23/1 Italian Ship MAURO CROCE from Genoa. (Barcelona, 1235/23).

NUMIDIA. Left Susak 21/1 for Trieste. (D.S. 507).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

JEAN L.D.

S.O. Force K. 1014Z/21. French ships should proceed Simonstown not Capetown, my 1159/7/11/1940 refers.
Ascertain probable time of arrival from S.O. Force K. Intercept off Simonstown or Capetown and divert.
(C.in C. S.A., 1011B/23 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

Adty. 1848/22. Summary of manifest should be signalled to Admiralty. Ship should be examined and then detained pending further instructions from Admiralty. (C.in C. S.A. 1105/23, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Admiralty 1848/22. JEAN L.D. has arrived Table Bay and is in hand for Contraband Examination by Union Authorities and with Union Defence Force Armed Guard on board. Intend to leave matters as they are in view of Union War Measure No.9 of 13/12/40 which gives powers of control over cargo in such ships.

Your 1911/23. In view of my 1532B/23 which has crossed your message, no action is being taken to sail French ships for Simonstown.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1843B/23, to C.in C. S.A.).

MENDOZA.

C.in C. S.A., 1123B/23. See South Atlantic.

Your 1252/22 and my 2301/22. MENDOZA's endurance 16 days at 12 knots my p.c. and s. are at 1200Z/23, 020° 37' S. 027° 06' W. 078° 12 knots, in company. Situation MENDOZA still friendly but no assistance to (?work) ship. 6 women and 5 children on board. (DORSETSHIRE, 1200Z/23 to Adty.)

CAMPANA.

My 1820/22. Source B/C 3 stated mutiny will occur in French ship CAMPANA on interception to avoid scuttling when Free French pendant will be hoisted on fore yard. Boarding would then be necessary.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1230/23 to R.A.S.A.D.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1006. 54° - 54° 30' N., west of 17° W., indefinite position. (D.S. 506). (C.in C. W.A. 1037/23).

1724. D.F., Italian U/B, probably southward bound, approx. 54.30 N., 22° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1812/23).

1302. 57° N. 21° W., Italian U/B, indefinite position (D.S. 507).

Havana. U/B reported in 21.58 N., 81.23 W. (N.A. Washington, 1055/23) See Operations Against Vichy French.

Le Havre. Salvage by Germans of French submarines at Le Havre and other French ports. (N.A. Washington, 1615/22, see Home Commands, Enemy Intelligence).

Sail HIGHLANDER and destroyers at Milford Haven to hunt U Boats reported S.W. of Lands End. Exercise Victor. (C.in C. W.A. 1112/23 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Employment of Capital ships in the North Sea.

A meeting was held at the Admiralty today, to discuss the employment of capital ships in the North Sea in case of invasion.

Operation N.C.

This operation was carried out this evening. Harwich was closed today owing to fog.

British Air Activity.

6 Beauforts of Coastal Command attacked Lorient this evening. One Beaufort on R.C. bombed the oil refinery at St. Nazaire today. On account of bad weather, bomber Command carried out no operations last night and today.

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. RANJA, one of the Norwegian ships which broke out of the Skagerrak yesterday (See Operation "Rubble") was bombed and machine gunned today on her way across the North Sea and had one casualty but no damage. C.S.15 in NAIAD with AURORA was also bombed this afternoon whilst engaged in the operation, but no damage occurred.

Mining.

S.S CORHEATH
S.S. TASMANIA.

S.S. CORHEATH was mined and sunk off Margate this evening. S.S. TASMANIA was damaged by a British Mine p.m. today off Aberdeen, but reached port under her own steam.

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Weather curtailed flying operations today.

South Atlantic.

Further bearings of enemy units have been obtained. One was estimated to be within 150 miles of 50.00 S., 17.35 W. at 2137/23Z which might be unit "C".

Proposals for the shipping required for the embarkation of the French Senegalese Brigade have been made to C.in C. S.A. by D. of S.T.

Mediterranean.

To prevent enemy air attack on the Malta to Alexandria convoy R.A.F. Blenheims bombed enemy aerodrome at Maritza (Rhodes) landing grounds at Sidi ~~(Rhodes)~~ and Magran, Soluch and Maraua.

~~Wellingtons bombed Maritza aerodrome, Rhodes last night.~~

The Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS claims to have sunk 3 Italian ships today.

East Indies.

Raider in Indian Ocean. — S.S. MANDASOR reports being bombed early this morning, apparently about midway between Madagascar and Ceylon. A subsequent cancellation of the distress message is not considered genuine.

V.Force. — SYDNEY, CANBERRA, LEANDER and COLOMBO have been allotted areas to search. Only the 2 former have serviceable aircraft.

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

KING GEORGE V, battleship, arrived at Chesapeake Bay today with Lord Halifax, newly appointed Ambassador to U.S.A.

Atlantic Convoys.	Mr. McDonald, Canadian Navy Minister stated today that some 3,770 vessels, carrying a deadweight tonnage of 22,260,000 were convoyed from the American side of the Atlantic in 1940.

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Loch Ewe. Proposed inclusion in W.A.Command.

As Loch Ewe is now a Convoy assembly port and will be used very largely by convoys and escorts entirely under my control, propose that the boundary between W.A. and O and S. Commands be altered to include it in the former, under the Greenock Sub-Command.

2. Consider that such a change would simplify arrangements for defence and administration of the port.
(C.in C. W.A. 1007/24 to Admty).

Rescue Tugs. Proposed Armament.

Your 1915/23. It is proposed that rescue tugs operated in N.W.Approaches should be fitted with Holman projectors, Schermuly pistols, and P A C rockets. When possible tugs will be operated in pairs observing that two tugs are usually required to get a ship in.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1536/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

Submarine Depot., Ships.

F.O.(S) 2303/23 Para.(c).
MAIDSTONE is continuously employed on maintenance work for destroyers and cannot be released without relief. The congestion in the repair yards is far more acute than when WOOLWICH was withdrawn last September and no alternative facilities for destroyers are available anywhere.
(C.in C. H.F. ?2306/24 to Admty).

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/24.
(D.C. 1147/24).
At 2330/24.
(D.C. 2355/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. (Contd.)

Operation "Victor".

A.C.O.S. 0839/24.

Admty. 0150/24, 0752/24, 0831/24, 0835/24, 1029/24, 1442/24.

Air Ministry. 1128/24.

ARETHUSA 0749/24.

AURORA 1008/24.

N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1015/24, 1545/24.

D.C. 1807/24.

D.S. 1312/24.

V.A.Dover 0925/24, 1106/24, 1504/24, 1828/24.

GALATEA 1020/24.

N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1010/24, 1017/24, 2140/24.

F.O.I.C. Greenock 1205/24.

N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1701/24.

F.O.I.C. Harwich 1016/24.

C.in C. H.F. 1015/24, 1516/24, 1530/24.

F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0751/24, 0813/24, 0828/24, 0835/24, 0900/24, 1004/24, 1103/24, 1245/24, 1204/24, 1310/24.

F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2200/24.

C.in C. Nore 0735/24, 0832/24, 0857/24, 0907/24, 0943/24, 1509/24, 1055/24, 1231/24, 1525/24, 1575/24, 1825/24, 2007/24, 2189/24, 2250/24, 2358/24.

F.O.I.C. Portland 1024/24, 1030/24, 1200/24, 1509/24, 2103/24, 2104/24.

C.in C. Portsmouth 1000/24, 1133/24, 1137/24 1146/24, 1020/24, 1148/24, 1457/24, 1606/24, 1608/24, 1640/24, 1745/24, 1800/24, 2004/24.

C.in C. Rosyth 0010/24, 0842/24, 0900/24, 0920/24, 6931/24, 1055/24, 1145/24, 1300/24, 1400/24, 0705/24, 0734/24, 1229/24, 0654/24, 1200/24, 1526/24, 1620/24, 1720/24, 2010/24, 2200/24.

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. (Contd.)

Operation "Victor". (Contd.)

Naval Umpire, Rosyth 0820/24, 0836/24, 1130/24.

REPULSE 0708/24.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN 0935 /24, 1115/24.

VANESSA 2133/24.

VANITY 0946/24.

C.in C. W.A. 0015/24, 0915/24, 0920/24, 1305/24, 1800/24, 1845/24, 1847/24, 1925/24, 2004/24, 2025/24, 2345/24.

F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0828/24.

MAORI 1152/24.

Town-Class Destroyer 1218/24.

EDINBURGH 1609/24.

War Office (Meetool 3) 1640/24.

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

KELLY,
KASHMIR,
JUPITER,
JERSEY.

Arrived Plymouth 1255/23.
(C.in C. W.A. 0025/24).

BEDOUIN,
SOMALI,
MATABLE,
TARTAR.

Arrived Scapa 0520.
(A.C.O.S. 0831/24).

BOREAS.

Sailed from London 0900/24 for Sheerness.
(F.O.I.C. London 1032/24 to C.in C. Nore).

ORONTES.

Your 1544/23 and 1608/23. D.S.T.O.Glasgow informs me that ORONTES cannot arrive at Tail of Bank before 1100 today and will then require about 1200 tons of fuel. Fuelling should be completed by about 1800.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1045/24 to Admty).

Force Z.
Escort.

Your 1907/23. Approved if destroyers are available after meeting your other commitments.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1138/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

ESPERANCE BAY.

Proceed as convenient so as to anchor off Methil before dark today. Sail from Methil so as to arrive off Tyne at 1500/25.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1157/24 to ESPERANCE BAY).

Cancel my 1157/24.
Proceed as convenient so as to anchor off Methil before dark tomorrow. Sail from Methil so as to arrive off Tyne at 1500/26.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1755/24 to ESPERANCE BAY).

INGLEFIELD.

My 1030/22. Sailing postponed 24 hours owing to fog.
(C.in C. Nore 1217/24 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

WOLFE, CIRCASSIA, CHITRAL, LETITIA.	WOLFE and CIRCASSIA leave Clyde 1500/26, WOLFE to Reykjavik and N.P.43, CIRCASSIA to N.P.42 both keeping to Northern end of patrol lines until 1500/30. Routes. CHITRAL and LETITIA to leave Southern ends of N.P.41 and N.P.42 respectively to arrive Reykjavik 1400/30. F.O. Iceland is requested to complete LETITIA with fuel and sail her for Halifax and to fuel CHITRAL if necessary and sail her for Clyde. Route. C.in C. H.F. is requested to arrange inward and outward escort from Minches to 015° West if available. (V.A.N.P. 1230/24).
MOOLTAN WHITSHED.	MOOLTAN sailed for London escorted by WHITSHED. WHITSHED subsequently proceeding to Harwich. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1355/24).
J.3968.	F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1043/22. Confirmed that gun trials should be carried out subject to concurrence of C.in C. H.F. (D.O.D.H. 1528/24).
	C.in C. Rosyth 1545/23. E.T.A. May Island 1215/30. Consequent on this it will be necessary to change firing area in Admiralty 1640/4. J.3968 intend to carry out gun trials 1400 to 1800/28 Liverpool Bay, 1400 to 1800/29 North Minch onwards, 0900 to 1200/30 off East Coast of Scotland between Aberdeen and May Island. (F.O. Liverpool 1614/24 to Admiralty).
Northern Patrol.	Trawler lines tonight. One Trawler. (A.C.O.S. 1539/24).
5th M.L.F.	It is requested that boats of 5th M.L.F. now at Dartmouth be sailed for their operational base under the Command of S.O. of F. when ready for service. (R.A.C.F. 1746/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

VULCAN. When ready for sea C.in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail VULCAN for Alexandria via the Cape routed as follows, arranging with C.in C. Western Approaches as necessary.

2. U.K. to Freetown calling at Ponta Delgada for fuel. Onward route to be arranged by C.in C. concerned.
(A.C.N.S. F. 1833/24.)

Operations.

Operation RUBBLE. Scapa Flow departure 0130 C.S.18 in EDINBURGH with BIRMINGHAM, ESCAPADE, ELECTRA and ECHO.
(A.C.O.S. 0149/24).

Expect fighter escort by pairs of Blenheims relieving every two hours from 1030 to dusk.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0350/24 to F.O.I.C.15 C.S.)

E/B reported by aircraft in position 058045'N., 0030 35'E at 1050 steering West.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1436/24 to C.S.15).

Enemy bombing in 58° 35'N., 3° 26'E., course 100°, speed 29 knots.
(C.S.15 1620/24).

Provide what cover you can for RUBBLE during the night and be in position to cover Eastern ships at daylight tomorrow Saturday.
(C.in C. H.F. 1902/24 to C.S.15).

My 1902/24. Request Fighter Protection from daylight.
(C.in C. H.F. 2027/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

On reaching 058° 48'N., 002° 00'W. at 0345, intend to alter course to 108 speed of advance 20 knots, to cover your return. Destroyers are escorting TAURUS and TAISHAM to Kirkwall.
(C.S.18 2351/24 to C.S.15).

Operation N.C. — Being carried out. Zero hour 1930.
(V.A.Dover 1231/24).

Submarines.

UNDAUNTED, MINERVE, TORBAY. — My 1742/23.
Add UNDAUNTED and MINERVE escorted by WHITE BEAR arrive Dundee A.M. amend movement of TORBAY to read leaves Rosyth a.m. unescorted for Dundee thence to Clyde escorted by WHITE BEAR.
(F.O.S. 0011/24).

OSIRIS. — Contact not made with convoy. Dome forced up by obstruction off Dungeness. Am unable to dive. Am remaining 4 miles south west Dungeness. Request escort.
(OSIRIS 0400/24 to Capt: S.S.)

A M.T.B. is coming to escort you. Trawler will be at S.W.Gate Buoy.
(N.O.I.C. Dover 0815/24 to OSIRIS).

My 1401 and my 1449. OSIRIS touched submerged object about 0200 this morning when approximately two miles south of Dungeness in fog. Asdic compartment flooded and unable to dive. Ship never made contact with convoy C.E.23 and anchored until visibility improved.
(V. A.Dover 1711/24 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

Intend to sail OSIRIS escorted by GULLFOSS at 0600 tomorrow for Sheerness. E.T.A. 1200. Fighter protection is being requested.
(N.O.I.C.Dover 1545/24).

TORBAY. Sails Rosyth 0520 to be off Tay Bar at 1200.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0526/24 to WHITE BEAR).

Proceed into Dundee.
(S.9. 0931/24 to TORBAY.)

My 0933/24. R/V with WHITE BEAR at eastern buoy of QZS 162 for passage to Clyde.
(S.9 1107/24 to TORBAY).

Sailed TORBAY escorted by WHITE BEAR for Clyde. E.T.A. 1400/26.
(S.9 1357/24).

SUNFISH. Leaves Blyth 1100/24 unescorted on surface Northward.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1058/24).

TUNA. F.O.S. 1642/18. Cancel para.C and substitute Para.C. Intend F.O.C.N.A. shall assume operational control of TUNA while on North Atlantic station and that he should be responsible for keeping her informed of movements that affect her during the same period. C.in C. W.A. is requested to keep TUNA informed of movements of own and enemy forces while on the home station. S.2. is to indicate time at which TUNA enters the North Atlantic station.
(F.O.S. 1132/24 to S.2.)

Positions. At 0800/25 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1654/24, 1741/24 and 1959/24.)

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

818.additional patrols being flown today.
STAB, BERT, HORNLI, S.A.2.
0800/24.

STAB and BERT in operation since 0900.
S.A.2 took off at 1030.
HORNLI will probably not be flown owing to weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1040/24 to C.S.15., C.S.18).

My 1040/24. HORNLI cancelled.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1240/24 to C.S.15, C.S.18).

Shooting down of own aircraft.

Admiralty's 1221/23. A Board of Enquiry will assemble at Lowestoft Naval Base at 1000/26. Request an Air Force Officer be appointed as member of the Board to be junior to a Captain R.N. of seniority 3rd October 1940. and that witnesses from 139 Squadron Bomber Command may attend.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1000/24 to Air Ministry).

Admiralty T.O.O. 1221/23. Bomber Command should detail R.A.F. Officer as member of Board of Services.
(Air Ministry 1230/24 to Bomber Command).

Our X 989 24/1. Board of Enquiry will assemble at Lowestoft Naval base at 1000/26. The R.A.F. Officer you appoint as member of Board should be Junior to a Captain R.N. seniority 3/10/40. Witnesses from 139 Squadron should attend.
(Air Ministry 1806/24 to H.Q.B.C.)

A.660/24/1. Pilot of Wellington A/C report being fired on by heavy A.A. from Lowestoft harbour at 1130/18 when flying at 700 feet in poor visibility. Although aircraft's undercarriage was lowered and recognition signal was fired A.A. continued. No damage to aircraft or injury to crew. Request you investigate whether Naval units were concerned and if so explain reasons for opening and maintaining fire.
(F.O.6. Air Ministry 1435/24 to A.

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

R/C Aircraft.

AP/784/24/1. Your X.819 23/1 addressed to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. Presume it is realised that no long range Spitfire will be available in United Kingdom to replace P.9551 for at least 3 weeks and that Genoa-Spezia and Toulon are out of range of other types photographic Spitfires available here.
(H.Q.C.C. 1035/24 to Air Ministry).

Lorient.

AP/786/24/1. Available aircraft No.217 Squadron to attack tonight submarines in naval Dockyard Lorient. Alternative Brest.
(H.Q.C.C. 1132/24 to 15 Group, St. Eval).

Enemy Air Activity.

MOSTYN.

Engine and rudder wrecked in position 054° 30'N., 014° 52' W. Cargo pitwood salvable. Picked up entire crew at 1540 two lascars wounded. Reported German aircraft had British markings.
(PHOEBE 0131/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

Proceed to assist. Tug SALVONIA also proceeding.
(C.in C. W.A. 1729/24 to SKEENA).

LURIGETHAN.

At 1835/23 in 53° 47'N., 15° 19'W. On fire in Engine-Room and No.4 Hold. Entire crew in Swedish MILOS proceeding to Oban, 2 slightly wounded. Ship may be salvable.
(PHOEBE 0131/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

LANGLEEGORSE.

Your 0037/24. Have found no trace of LANGLEEGORSE position indicated. Intend to continue searching in area until dark.
(SKEENA 1315/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

C.S.15.

Enemy bombing in 58° 35'N., 3° 26'E., course 100°, speed 29 knots.
(C.S.15 1620/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Aberdeen Area.	Presence of many floating mines suspected between Rattray Head and Milton Ness. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1006/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).
	5th M.S.F. is to carry out Search of East side of dividing line A Z 787 between Aberdeen and Kinnairds Head forthwith. (C.in C. Rosyth 1043/24 to M.S.5.)
Aircraft Minelaying.	For tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1131/24 to 16 Group N.Coates).
INTREPID.	My 1203/23. Regret dense fog again will cause further delay. (F.O. Humber 1204/24).
Off Wick.	Floating mine in latitude 058 degs. 22' 30" N., 002 degs. 34'W. Have expended all available ammunition cannot sink it. (PIROUETTE 1245/24 to A.C.O.S.)
B.S.50.	Postponed on account of weather. Am proceeding to Immingham. (TEVIOT BANK 1437/24).
S.S. TASMANIA.	(6405 tons) struck a mine 2 miles off Aberdeen p.m./24 but reached Methil under her own steam, damaged. (D.O.R.)
	With ATTENTIF as escort proceeding to Leith. Owing to heavy swell at entrance consider operation of entering Aberdeen dangerous. TASMANIA using hand steering. Now making no water. Damaged and holed on water line under port quarter. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1238/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Surface Unit in Skagerrak.

By D/F at 1015 indicates German surface unit (destroyer or larger) in the Skagerrak, approx. position 58° 20'N., 9° 20' East.
(D.D.I.C. 1055/24).

By D/F at 1303/24. Position of unknown enemy unit was 57° N., 10° E. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1333/24).

By D/F on 5915 dc/s at 1555/24. Position of enemy unit was 57° 50'N., 10° E. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1635/24).

Fish Cargo from Aalesund.

Small Norwegian fishing vessel arrived Thershaven today with crew of two and 8 refugees onboard. They report when they sailed from Aalesund on 22/1 the Dutch CONSUL HORN was about to leave for Bergen with 5,000 tons of Salt fish destined for Germany.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 1645/24.)

Miscellaneous.

Harwich closed.

Port still closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1300/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

North East Coast, independent sailings.

Vessels bound from Firth of Forth to Dundee and vice versa are to proceed independently and are to be sailed at such times that they arrive in port before nightfall.
(D.T.D. 0009/24 to N.C.S.O's Methil and Dundee).

Routes.

Your 1536/23. No. (Routeing of ships through area North of 61° North., and East of 25° 00'West.
(D.T.D. 1155/24 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

Reporting of Suspicious Ships.

Admiralty Message E.K. When a warship or merchant ship is sighted which is suspected of hostile intent a distress message in accordance with D.M.S.B. Article 16 should be made (Admiralty Message CJ also refers), the word "Suspicious" being added as the "Nature of attack". Example QQQQ de GBTT 55° 07'North., 19° 20'West, QUEEN MARY Suspicious. Message EJ was not made by W/T.
(D.S.D. 1535/24 to All British M.S's.)

Coastal Convoys.

F.S.94.

Sailed from Methil 1400/23. No ships from Tyne Area.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0044/24).

E.N.61.

(A) 0100/24. (b) H.M.T's ELLESMERE (S O) SALTARELLO. Additional escort HASTINGS. (c) 13 ships. No ships for Clyde. 6 with kites.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 0181/24).

F.S.94.

Code word for F.S.94 South of Tyne, OCEAN.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0509/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.C.277. (a) 0233/24 Jan.
(b) VANQUISHER, WINCHELSEA and CENTAIN.
(c) 6 ships (two with kites) R/V with O.B. 277 in Rothesay Bay.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0600/24).

F.S.95. GARTH. Proceed from Methil at 0800/25 to Sheerness Adjust speed to overhaul F.S.95 by 0800/26 and act as additional escort when in company. F.S.95 due off Aldeburgh 0600/26 speed 6 knots. Escort F.S.95 is VANITY FLEETWOOD, VERSATILE, WALLACE, S.O.VANITY.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0917/24 to GARTH).

O.B.O.277. Sailed 0700/24/1. Escort VERBENA.
12 ships. 8 ships carried kites.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 0932/24).

Sailed H.M.S. CORSAIR 0900/24 to R/V with O.B.277. E.T.A.Trinidad.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 0946/24 to C.in C. A.W.I)

O.B.278. Sailed KINGCUP escorting O.B.278.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1041/24).

W.N.74. 1000/24 H.M.Trawlers LADY ROSEMARY, SARABANDE 8 ships. Six ships with kites.
(N.C.S.O. Greenock 1101/24).

F.N. and F.S. Movements to 1200/25, may be restricted through fog. SHEARWATER with F.N.90 thence to Humber. PUFFIN Humber to Harwich with F.S.95. F.S.92 expected to anchor Barrow Deep for night 23/24.
F.S.94 Flamboro Head 1200/24. F.S.95 due Flamboro Head 0330/25. F.N.90 due Flamboro Head 1200/24. F.N.91 due sail Southend 0930/25.
(C.in C. Nore, 1200/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.90. Intend to sail S.S. SHOALFISHER with 6" mounting in F.N.90 for Methil.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1202/24 to C.in C. Rosyth, etc.)

F.S.94. PUFFIN. Request you will sail PUFFIN to form additional escort for F.S.94 due Outer Dowsing 1800/24.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1226/24 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

O.B.C.278. 0500/25/1. One ship SOPHOCLES.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1231/24).

W.N.75 (O). Sailed 1430/24. H.M.T. NOTTS COUNTY six ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1435/24).

F.S.95. Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1515/24 to Admty etc.)

O.B.278. Sailed 1300/24. 3 ships 9 knots. No kites.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1517/24).

Liverpool portion O.B.278 is cancelled.
Proceed with O.B.M.278 to Clyde R/V then return to base.
(C.in C. W.A. 1749/24 to DERBY COUNTY).

F.N.90. M.L.169 sailed to join F.N.90.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2013/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.91. Commodore in UMVUMA. Vice Commodore in H.M.S. MALVERNIAN. Weigh at 0930/25. Number of ships 49. Additional escort WIDGEON.
(C.in C. Nore 2130/24 to VANESSA, PYTCHLEY, LONDONDERRY, WOLFHOUND.

O.B.277. H.M. Yacht CORSAIR returned to Belfast unable to contact O.B.277.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 2230/24).

O.B.277.
O.B.279. My 0820/23 and 0945/24. H.M.Y. CORSAIR and O.B.277. Not met. Former returned Belfast. Propose sailing her with O.B.279 E.T.A. Trinidad.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 2232/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

12 M.Vs. Intend sailing 1730/25 via Saint Catherines and Nab Tower 12 merchant ships including 2 large tankers for onward routeing 4 to Shoreham one to Littlehampton one for Poole. E.T.A. Nab 0830/26 escort LORD ESSENDON and CORNELIAN.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2330/24 to C.in C. Plymouth).

W.N.75. Sailed A/S trawlers BERKSHIRE, ST. APOLLO for W.N.75, E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0900/25.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 2359/24.

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys.

Escort Groups.

Orders for sailing of Escort Groups.

2nd No.	Out Convoy	Feb.	1st	Meet	BXH.104.
7th	OB.281	"	"	"	H.X.105.
4th	OB.282	"	3rd	"	S.L.63.
8th	OG.52	"	5th	"	52 and SLS.63.
1st	OB.283	"	7th	"	H.X.106.
5th	OB.284	"	9th	"	S.C.21.
3rd	OB.285	"	11th	"	H.X.107.
6th	OB.286	"	13th	"	S.L.64.
2nd	OG.53	"	15th	"	H.G.53 & SLS 64.

2. BHX 104, is an extra convoy. HAVELOCK HESPERUS HARVESTER will be required to sail on 1/2 to meet BHX 104 and act as additionnal escort.
(C.in C. W.A. 1129/24.)

O.G.51. (a) 2200/26.
(b) Not known.
(c) 8 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1455/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

O.G.M.51. 1715/25. Not known. 2 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1820/24).

O.G.51. If ready A/S Trawler RUBENS is to be sailed to Gibraltar in O.G.51.
(C.in C. W.A. 1921/24 to N.O.I.C. Oban)
(Cancelled C.in C. W.A. 1301/25).

S.L.62. Extract from Convoy Sailing Telegram as amended by Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 2001/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military Convoys.

W.S.6. Following are proposed embarkation arrangements.
(D. of S.T. 0201/24).

ORONTES. Intend to sail ORONTES escorted by O.R.P. GARLAND and LEOPARD at 2000 today in accordance with a.m. 1137/24, 1544/23 and 1627/21.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1514/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

OSIRIS.	Dome forced up by obstruction off Dungeness. Am unable to dive. Am remaining 4 miles S.W. of Dungeness. Request escort. (OSIRIS 0400/24 to Capt: S.5.)
PORT HUNTER.	My 1215/22/1. PORT HUNTER does not expect to sail till 2200/25 owing to damage sustained. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1040/24 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
MERIONES.	Situation unchanged. Vessel still aground. Thick fog. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1130/24).
BULLFINCH.	(Cable ship, 433 tons). Slightly damaged by gale at Greenock from 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
GEORGETOWN.	(Destroyer). Slight damage by gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
LADY LILIAN.	(A/S Trawler). Hull damaged by gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
ANGLE.	(A/S Trawler) Hull damaged by gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
ORCHIS.	(Corvette) Extensive hull damage by gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

TEDWORTH.	(Diving Ship) Extensive hull damage, main pipes punctured, in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
CHEVREUIL.	(French Minesweeper) Hull damaged, Frames and bulkhead buckled, in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. Will probably require docking. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
LE TRIOMPHANT.	(French Light Cruiser). Hull damaged and frame buckled in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. Will probably require docking. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
LARKSPUR.	(Corvette) Side slightly damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
BREDA.	(Yacht) Damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
TUSCARORA.	(A/S Yacht) Slightly damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
NORWICH CITY.	(A/S Trawler) Damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
GIRL ETHEL.	(Wooden Drifter) Hull very extensively damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 24.1.1941.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

SEAMAN.	(Rescue Tug) Damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
LEOPARD.	(French Light Cruiser) Has requested repairs. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
ROSEMARY.	(A/S Vessel) Unseaworthy. Has requested repairs. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
HEATHER.	(Corvette) Unseaworthy. Has requested repairs. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
WIRTA.	(Finnish 4028 tons). Your 1543/23 and my 1153/23. Grounded in 064 08'N., 022 04'W., at 1100 today in fog. Have placed armed guard on board. Ship is damaged and it will be necessary to discharge large part of cargo before effort can be made to refloat her. (F.O. Iceland 1651/24 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Intelligence, Dakar Casablanca.

Following received from Dakar; (a) dated 17/1 CHELMA has sailed to French Guinea. Lieut. De La Tour arrived 16/1 with native troops. Following three ships are now in Dakar, RICHELIEU, MONTCALM, GEORGES LEYGUES, destroyers MALIN and FANTASQUE, S/Ms and many smaller vessels. S/Ms and smaller vessels are being used for escort duty. Personnel of naval establishment is estimated at 4000. (b) Dated 21/1. S.S. FORT DE DOUAUMREO arrived from South. Following from Casablanca dated 17/1. Tanker FIRUZ sailing 18/1 for Bene near Marseilles with Alpine troops and field guns. Troopships escorted by French warships reported to be "moving South of Dakar".
(N.A. Washington, 1900/24 to Admty).

North Atlantic.

Italian U-Boat Las Palmas.

Italian S/M left here midnight G.M.T. 22/1. It is said action took place 4 days before arrival Las Palmas and that Second in Command killed in action, not Commanding Officer.
(Consul, Las Palmas, 1005/24 to Admty)
(F.O.C. N.A. 1707/24 to N.A. Station and 1723/24 to C. in C. S.A.).

My 1800/23 not to Las Palmas. Min. of For. Aff. explains verbally to Embassy that five days repair period given in their note is from date of note (22/1). To that 24 hours must be added and that time allowed will therefore xpire at 05350/28
(N.A. Madrid 1341/24 to Admty).

OTUS.

Position of submarine at 0800/24 and movements for the following 24 hours as follows:-
(a) OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A, 1444/24).

NORTHERN PRINCE.

Admty 1628/23 and 2306/22. Anticipate sailing NORTHERN PRINCE for Suez p.m./26 bunkering Capetown. Destroyer escort will be provided for 24 hours.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1600/24 to C. in C. S.A.).

/Air.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Air Report. — Daily Summary Operations. 1 surface recco. East. 1 routine A.R. Patrol. Flying curtailed owing to weather conditions. Area covered Spartel to 4 West. (200 Group 1735/24).

A/C Gibraltar. — Now reported that 1 Glen Martin aircraft flew over Gibraltar a.m. 20/1 and was driven off by A/A fire. No bombs were dropped. (D.S. 508, 25/1).

South Atlantic.

South Africa Mail Ships. — My 2247/18 P.S.T.O. Bombay in his 1317/20 has stated that no suitable ships can be sent from India to replace HIGHLAND PRINCESS and HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN. Request report whether any suitable vessels available locally e.g. India/South Africa mail ships.
(D.S.T. 0202/24 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Enemy Unit. — My 2352/23. Add following bearings:-
Freetown 290/4. Ascension 342/3.
Bermuda 047/3.
(D.D.I.C. 0555/24 to C. in C. S.A).

D/F bearings indicate enemy surface unit within 150 miles of 005 degs. 00'South 017 degs. 35'West at 2137/23 Z. This might be unit C.
(C. in C. S.A., 0951N/24 to S.A. Station).

My 2352/23 and 0555/24. Enemy surface unit considered to be within about 150 miles of position 5° 00'S. and 17° 30'W. at 2137/23 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0955/24 to C. in C.S.A. etc.).

WAIMARAMA. — Southbound ship crossing 20° North for Cape. (Approx. Noon Position 25/1 and Route).
(D.T.D. 1230/24 to S.A. Station).

/KENYA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

KENYA.)
SOBIESKI.)

My 1721/18 and Admty 1750/17. Intend sailing escorted by DUNEDIN. Time and route and E.T.A. Gibraltar. A/S escort VELOX, VIDETTE until (date).
(C. in C. S.A. 1415/24 amended 2047/25 to F.O.C.N.A.) See Operations Volume.

French Senegalese Brigade.

Your 1615/21/12. Proposals for embarkation (D.S.T. 2003/24 to C. in C. S.A.).
See Operations Volume.

D.8.

Expected time of arrival Freetown 0730N/26. (Capt. D.8, 1655/24 to C. in C. S.A).

FURIOUS.

Admiralty 1226/23 and 1826/22. Unless considerable delay can be accepted essential FURIOUS should be berthed alongside under crane as ship crane will be fully employed for at least 4½ days in disembarking aircraft and gear brought from Freetown and embarking stores and provisions. Only 12 boilers serviceable - but these should enable 22 knots to be maintained to limit of endurance. Request ship be allowed to proceed with escort at best speed rather than long passage in slow convoy. Most desireable fuel Gibraltar. Following urgently required as emergency aid to ventilation vide C. in C. South Atlantic's 1621N/14. Essential following long overdue stores reach ship before sailing. If 12 days or more in harbour propose leave in two watches.
(FURIOUS, 1828/24 to Admty).

Free French Shipping.

Following for Claud Adams. Allocation of Free French ships. Mentions FORT DE TROYON, TOMBOCTOU, TOUAREG, CAPO OLMO and INDOCHINOIS.
(D.S.T. 2308/24 to N.C.S.O. Duala).

BRIDGEWATER to overtake ATLAS.

My 1931/23 and my 0801/24 to Director of Nigerian Marine, Lagos, and Director of Nigerian Marine, Lagos 1017/24. As tug IVES has no W/T raise steam as convenient and proceed 25/1 overtake ATLAS and act as (corrupt group) (corrupt group) until S.S. GOVERNOR met. When tow is proceeding satisfactorily return to Lagos.
(C. in C. S.A. 2357N/24 to BRIDGEWATER).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Shipping Resources Port and Transit Committee.	Importance of developing resources of Egyptian ports. Port and Transit Committee set up. Questions of finance and administration. (C. in C. Med. 0929/24 to Admty).
Operation "Inspection".	0600/23. ILEX HERO BONAVENTURE AJAX ORION and YORK sailed. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1057/24).
Ammunition.	Your 2313/20 Para. 1. 2 guns and 14 loose barrels embarked in R.89 and R. 90 leaving U.K. shortly. (D.T.S.D. 1156/24 to C. in C. Med).
Malta Rumours of Attack.	Turkish Military Attache in Rome reported to Anksra on 19/1 that he has heard rumours of an impending attack against Malta by 1 or 2 Infantry Divisions and 2 Regiments of Parachute troops now in Sicily. Reliability unassessed. (S.O.I Alexandria 1245/24 to Admty, C. in C. Med, V.A. Malta);
Air Report.	Operational Summary No. 228 up to 1200 hrs. 24/1/1941. Egypt night 22/23. 2 Wellingtons unable to locate Maritza aerodrome owing
Rhodes bombed.	to weather bombed Rhodes harbour causing fires and explosions on the jetty and demolishing buildings alongside.
Apollonia and Derna bombed.	Day 23/1. Apollonia and Derna landing grounds each bombed by 3 Blenheims. 4 explosions and small fires in barrack area Apollonia bombs burst among buildings at Derna. Blenheims dropped small bombs among aircraft on Maraua landing ground
Benhazi Recco.	details awaited. Reconnaissances reported 3 large 9 medium 3 small merchant ships in Bengasi.
Malta Defence	Reply to Admty 1756/18 (C. in C. Med. 1257/24) See Mediterranean Volume.
Kabret.	Re M.L.C. Base. (C. in C. Med. 1615/24 to Admty). See Mediterranean Volume.

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Convoy B.N.13.	Arrived Suez 24/1. lessSTAR OF MEX and ADA. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1738/24).
Convoy A.S.13.	Convoy sailing telegram, part 2.A.S.13 1500/24 (14 ships). (Athens 1801/24 to Admty).
Air Report.	Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 24/1. All times G.M.T. 0510 to 1320 Sunderland despatched to cover track of ILLUSTRIOUS proceeding to Alexandria Arrived first position and proceeded along track to second position without sighting. ILLUSTRIOUS presumed proceeded at greater speed than anticipated. 0920 to 1317 Glenn Martin photo recco. Gela Sciacca Castel Vetrano Syracuse. Syracus aerodrome not located. Port no shipping 30 seaplanes. 0941 to 1006 2 formations enemy aircraft approached within 10 miles (NT sic) Grand Harbour and withdrew presumed recco. with fighter protection. 9 fighters up no interception. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1840/24).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

MANDASOR bombed.

British ship MANDASOR reported being bombed in longitude 061 E. at 0545 G.M.T. 24/1 lat. corupt but is believed to be 004° 18'S. There is no shipping south MANDASOR in long. 061° E.
(C. in C. E.I. 0752Z/24 to E. E. Indies Sqdn)

My 0752/24. (1) British ship BEACON STREET also reports a suspicious ship in sight in position 017° 00' South 041° 36' East at 0349 G.M.T./24. No cancellation yet received. BEACON STREET did not make report in form of Q. or R. distress message.
(C. in C. E.I, 0846z/24 to E.I Sqdn).

My 0752/24 Seychelles has been called MANDASOR by W/T. Call sign GCXB made at 10162/24. My message 0545 G.M.T. now cancelled (2) cancellation not at present considered genuine (3) MANDASOR left Calcutta 14th to pass Dondra Head 18th due Durban forth routed through position 017° 085° 006° North 082° 001° South 076° 009° 046° 027° 038° at 10 knots. (4) Seychelles will be instructed to give GCXB the impression that we consider cancellation genuine. SYDNEY may be able to D/F her at about 1400Z/24.
(C. in C. E.I. 1210Z/24 to E.I. Sqdn).

SYDNEY.
CANBERRA.
LEANDER.
COLOMBO.

My 0752/24.
(i) Following movements have been ordered.
(a) SYDNEY left Seychelles at 1000z/24 to search in supposed position of raider at about 27 knots.
(b) CANBERRA from position 005° 20'N. 080° 25'E. at 0915z/24 to pass through 1½° channel at 25 knots.
(c) LEANDER sails from Colombo at about 1130z/24 for 1½° channel at 25 knots.
(d) COLOMBO from position 003° 45' S. 052° 00'E. at 1045z/24 to position 001° S. 059° E. at about 14½ knots to cover shipping.
(ii) Note - (a) SYDNEY and CANBERRA have serviceable aircraft but LEANDER has not. (b) COLOMBO has engine trouble and her maximum speed is not known. (iii) Ships in parargraph (i) are to decode all addresses to Force V.
(C. in C. E.I. 1238z/24 to E.I. Sqdn).

/My.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

My 1238/24 after passing 1½° of channel CANBERRA is to proceed towards position equator 070° East.
(C. in C. E.I. 1432Z/24 to Force V).

KANIMBLA. Departure 24/1 KANIMBLA in accordance with C. in C. East Indies. 1042/22.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1040B/24 to Admty etc).

Contraband Control. Your 0059/24/12. Question of limiting exports from India, Burma, Straits, Ceylon and Netherlands East Indies with unified control is under consideration. See also my telegram timed 1148/23 to C. in C. East Indies.
(Hd. of M. 1111/24 to F.O.C.R.I.N.).

Air Report. Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 24/1. Bombing nil. Convoy escort 3 Blenheims.
(Air H.Q. Aden, 1431/24).

Shipping Officer, Aden. Ministry of Shipping propose to appoint a Deputy Ministry of Shipping Representative at Aden who would also work in close liaison with Barker at Alexandria. Captain Messenger, local P. and O. agent at Aden is suggested for the appointment. Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 1630/24 to C. in C. E.I).

Meat Ships. Admty 2247/18 and 0202/24. Re release of HIGHLAND PRINCESS and HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN for meat carrying.
(D.T.D. 2004/24 to C. in C. E.I).
(See Operations Volume).

Aircraft Sqdns. Your 0816/24/12. Proposals for air sqdns, Ceylon, Mombasa, Durban, Calcutta.
(Hd. of M. to C. in C. E.I. 2148/24).
(See Operations Volume).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-China and Thailand.

Your 0814/18. Following from Foreign Office, to inform Admiral Decoux. (D.N.I. to C. in C. China 2213/24).

From De Schompse to De Gaulle, No. 46, Indo-China Situation. Japan aggravating situation by supplying aircraft and material to Thai. (C. in C. China, 05072/24 to Admty).

America & West Indies.

T.C.9.

My 1201/23. Arrangements re DEMPO, JOHAN VAN OLDEN BARNE VELDE, and DUCHESS OF YORK. (D.S.T. 0200/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). See Operations.

KING GEORGE V.

Arrived at Chesapeake Bay with Lord and Lady Halifax on board 24/1 (Press).

Expected time of arrival Cape Henry 0700/24 & Annapolis 1600. (KING GEORGE V., 0330R/24, to C. in C. H.F). (Conveying Lord Halifax Ambassador to U.S.A. etc).

ASCANIA.
PORPOISE.
H.X. 105.

Intend sailing ASCANIA and PORPOISE as ocean escorts for H.X. 105. ASCANIA subsequently returning to Halifax. PORPOISE instructed to proceed to Clyde with that portion of convoy unless otherwise ordered by F.O.(S) (F.O.I.B.S. 1902/24 to Admty).

COMORIN.

My 1756/23 COMORIN route. (B.S.I., 1937/24 to C. in C. S.A.).

Australia.

Shipping, Albany.

My 1802/12. Vessels destined for South and East Coast Australian ports need not call at Albany. (D.T.D. 1739/24 to A.I.G. 47).

Your 0345/22 vide my 1902/12 all ships from U.K. to Australia are now calling at Cape Town or Durban. Authorities will be instructed that it is not necessary for ships to call at Albany. (D.T.D. 1740/24 to A.C.N.B. Melbourne.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CORDELIA.

German ship CORDELIA arrived Trebizond 21/1 from Kersasund and Ordu leaving for Varna after loading 400 tons shelled hazel nuts. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1023/24 to Admty etc).

PLUS.

(B.2.). German ship PLUS is expected to sail. German master who has piloted previous ships reported to have arrived and taken charge.
(Consul, Vigo, 1115/13(?24) to D.N.I.).

Reported that German ship PLUS is expected to sail from Vigo. Graded B.2.
(D.D.I.C. 2106/24 to F.O.C.N.A).

Report received that German ship PLUS is expected to sail from Vigo.
(V.A.S. 2244/24 to Subs. on Patrol Area B).

German ship PLUS expected to sail from Vigo. Unrecognised Tanker passed Punta Arenas toward Atlantic on 19/1.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2359/24 to Ships & Authorities N.A. Station).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MIN.

French ship MIN passed Sunda Straits 0300/23 for Saigon.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0438/24 to Admty).

CAMPANA.

CAMPANA has not sailed. Not known if sailing is postponed or cancelled.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1035/24 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc).

French ship CAMPANA has not sailed from Buenos Aires. A.l. report received that ship will not sail till next week.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1216Z/24 to D.N.I. R.A.S.A.D).

French Ambassador has informed (?Consul) that CAMPANA will not sail.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1706/24 to D.N.I).

JEAN L.D.

S.O. Force K's 1014/21. French ship JEAN L.D. held Capetown under Union armed guard. Ship running a scheme which has started regular sailing Marseilles, Casablanca, Dakar, Madagascar ports, Haiphong, Saigon, and Tourance leaving Marseilles 10th and 20th of each month. Ship is lightly loaded explanation being unoccupied France has nothing to export. Cargo about one thousand tons chiefly wine loaded Algiers. Summary of cargo follows in my 1203/24. Master anticipates loading rice Saigon for France.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1135/24 to Admty).

My 1135/24. Following is summary of cargo in French ship JEAN L.D.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1203/24 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

OROPESA (torpedoed 16/1).

TENACITY arrived Campbeltown with survivors from OROPESA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1505/24).

Submarines Reported.

0208.

Following has been read. 60.12 N. 27.10 W., submarine sighted EMPIRE BUFFALO. (Lyness W/T, T.O.R. 0208/24) (Graded C.3. D.S. 507) EMPIRE BUFFALO, 6404 tons in H.X. 102 with steel and trucks (D.O.R. 24/1).

Italian U/B.

Left Las Palmas (Consul, Las Palmas, 1005/24 etc) See North Atlantic.

0136.

57 to 59 N. west of 25 W. indefinite position (D.S. 507).

Estimated U/B. Dispositions.

Situation still obscure.

German.
One probably to N. W. Cape Verde Is. may be proceeding home.
One may be to N.W. Cape Verde outward.
One about 49° N. 27° W.
Three probably in area 50° to 55° N. 15° to 20° W.
One 57° to 59° N. West of 25° W.
One may have been in 60° N. 27° W. at 0208/24.
Three more whereabouts unknown but may be one to N.W., one to N.E. and one to S.E. of Rockall.

Italian.
One in Las Palmas.
One between Azores and Portugal.
One vicinity Canary Is.
One near 57° N. 21° W. at 1302/23.
One about 52° N. 20° W. bound for Gironde.
Two more probably West or South West of Rockall.
(D.D.I.C. 1334/24).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.1.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Western Channel Patrol

KELLY and KASHMIR last night patrolled between Start Point and Lands End.

Operation "Rubble"

The five Norwegian merchant ships which broke out of the Skagerrak on 23/1 arrived at Kirkwall today.

Sweep for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU

A report was received this evening from N.A. Stockholm that two heavy ships, believed to be SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU had passed through the Great Belt north bound at 1100/23. C. in C., H.F. in NELSON left Scapa at 2330 G.M.T. today with RODNEY, REPULSE, 8 cruisers and 11 Destroyers. Coastal Command are carrying out appropriate patrols, and Battles from Iceland are to patrol Denmark Strait to-morrow.

British Air Activity

Bad weather caused patrols in the southern half of the North Sea to be greatly curtailed today. Several air escorts failed to locate their convoys owing to low visibility in the N.W. Approaches.

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night or today.

Beauforts of Coastal Command last night attacked the docks at Lorient. E-Boats off Ameland were bombed today without result.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.1.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS MERIONES, which ran aground on Haisboro Sands during the night 21/22 was unsuccessfully bombed today. Rescue tug NORMAN was bombed whilst assisting her, but was not damaged. An attacking aircraft was hit and crippled and jettisoned her bombs in the sea.

H.M.T. THEIR MERIT was slightly damaged by a near miss at Great Yarmouth this afternoon.

An unknown ship, believed to be Dutch STAD ARNHEM was attacked in the N.W. Approaches today.

It is reported that SS WOOLER (507 tons) was set on fire and considerably damaged at ~~the London Docks~~ Plymouth in air raid 13/1

Mining

Harwich was opened this morning and the Humber this afternoon; a large number of mines were exploded in the Humber today.

Mines were detonated off Liverpool today and M/S Trawler RUNSWICK BAY sustained minor damage.

One mine self detonated off St. Ann's Head (Milford Haven)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.1.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Cables — The cable ship MIRROR, escorted by LEYLAND left Gibraltar this morning for an operation off Tangier and Cadiz.

Azores — Paragraphs 5 and 6 of Admty. 2146/30/10, re Western Patrol dispositions in relation to an attempt to capture the Azores, are to be in abeyance until further orders.

South Atlantic

MENDOZA — DEVONSHIRE is to meet the French ship MENDOZA at Ascension and provide cover until DRAGON can join, when both will escort MENDOZA to Freetown.

Mediterranean

Patrols — A standing patrol in Kithera and ante-Kithera has been established by corvettes. One A/S trawler in Elaphonisos Channel will be relieved by a Greek torpedo boat.

Operation "Inspection" — ILLUSTRIOUS arrived at Alexandria today. Enemy aircraft appear just to have failed to make contact with her. V.A.L.F.'s force failed to make contact owing to the high speed of ILLUSTRIOUS and was attacked from 1710 to 1815/24 by about 30 enemy aircraft in position 34° 20' N., 20° 10' but no ships were damaged; four of 5 aircraft were possibly damaged. Details of the air attacks on her on 16/1 are contained in D.T.S.D. 1639/25 in response to a request from C. in C., Home Fleet.

A Junkers 88 reconnoitred Malta this morning at a great height but dropped no bombs.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

NORFOLK, AUSTRALIA, SUFFOLK, LONDON, BERWICK, DEVONSHIRE, EXETER — Intended Movements. (A.C.N.S. H. 1311/25 to C.in C. H.F.). See Operations Volume.

1st C.S. — Adty. 0300/22, 0910/12, and 1917/24/11. Rear-Admiral Wake-Walker has hoisted flag in NORFOLK as F.C.C. 1st C.S. (A.C.N.S. F. 1320/25).

9th M/S F. / A/S Training. — Your 1846/23. Under present conditions I see no chance of being able to give 9th M/S F. adequate A/S Training here. Reasons. (A.C.O.S. 1401/25 to Adty.)

Loch Ewe. — C.in C. W.A. 1007/24. Concur that Aultbea should be transferred to the command of C.in C. W.A. Further proposals will be forwarded with regard to the proposed new boundary between the O and S and W A commands taking into consideration also the question of W/T areas vide your 1336/15 and C.in C. Rosyths 1746/17. (A.C.O.S. 1737/25 to Adty.).

EAGLE Ships Armament. — Your 2029/24.
(A) No arms can be spared from any existing EAGLES which are already under-armed. Particulars. It is also desired to fit in any EAGLES which can carry them U.P. Pig troughs or a number of single 3" U.P. mountings firing explosive shells.
(C.in C. Nore 1755/25 to Adty.)

Rescue Tugs Armament. — Your 1536/24. It is under consideration to provide Oerlikon guns in rescue tugs operating in N.W. approaches.
Ships should already carry Schermuly pistols. P.A.C. rockets are being provided but Holman projectors should not be fitted at present.
(D.T.D. 1818/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

TOWN-class Destroyers. Working up arrangements. — A.M.1120/18, my 1917/18, and Captain (D) Londonderry's 2340/20.
Intend Town Class destroyers shall carry out preliminary training from Plymouth and Dartmouth, and if necessary final working up practices from Loch Foyle.

/ 2. ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

TOWN-class Destroyers. Working up arrangements. (Contd.)

2. It is proposed Holyhead S/M be transferred to Londonderry as the additional S/M and be available for Liverpool and Greenock escort groups as well as Town class destroyers. Request arrangements be made accordingly.
(C.in C. W.A. 1836/23 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

Exercise "Victor".

C.in C. Portsmouth 0006/25,

A.C.O.S. 0008/25, 1201/25,

C.in C. Rosyth 0010/25, 0044/25, 1212/25,

Air Ministry 0020/25,

V.A. Dover 0033/25, 0411/25, 2009/25, 1223/25,

C.in C. W.A. Rcod. 0035/25, 0035/25, 0601/25, 0905/25,

F.O.I.C. Tyne. 0610/25,

F.O.I.C. Portland 0817/25, 1221/25, 1530/25,

D.C. 0900/25, 1009/25, 0210/25,

C.in C. Nore 1030/25,

My 2335/13. Exercise VICTOR will end at 1400 today. (Captain Edwards 1301/25 to C's-in-C.)

DNLUGE. At 1130/25. (D.C. 1138/25).
At 2330/25 (D.C. 2337/25).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

KELLY
KASHMIR — Sailed Plymouth 2006/24. (C.in C. W.A. 0135/25).

T.L.C.4. — Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1116/25).

BOREAS. — Arrived Sheerness 1120/25.
(C.in C. Nore 1224/25 to F.O.I.C. London).

Intend sail for Scapa at 1300/27.
(C.in C. Nore 1234/25 to A.C.O.S.).

M/V's. — Sailed for Sheerness at 1209/25
H.M. A/S Trawler CAPE PORTLAND escorting
R.F.A. LARCHOL and three merchant ships.
Anchoring for the night in Barrow Deep.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1250/25 to Adty.)

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines tonight.
One Trawler. (A.C.O.S. 1539/25).

Force Z. — My 1655/22 para. one. S.O. of Force for GLENROY read GLENGYLE.
(D.O.D.(H) 1701/25 to C.in C's W.A., S.A., E.I., and F.O.C.N.A.).

MOOLTAN. — Arrived Gravesend 1650. Entering Tilbury Docks 1100/26.
(F.O.I.C. London 1706/25 to C.in C. Nore).

DOUGLAS. — Return to Scapa with despatch.
(C.in C. H.F. 1905/25 to DOUGLAS).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation RUBBLE.

My position at 0500/25 is 058° 57' North 001° 37' West. E.T.A. Kirkwall 0700. Norwegian Ship JOMNJBAKKE in company. (AURORA 0500/25 to A.C.O.S.)

Your 2351/24. At 0300/25 058° 48' N. 000° 28' W. 274°, 12 knots. AURORA believed to be 12 miles ahead. Each with one merchant vessel in company. (F.O. 15 C.S. 0259/25 to F.O. 18 C.S.).

Scapa arrival 0600 ELECTRA, OSLO, ESCAPADE, ECHO, 0900 AURORA. (A.C.O.S. 0907/25 to Adty.).

Operation RUBBLE completed. (C.in C. H.F. 0927/25 to Adty.).

A/S Patrol.

Two A/S trawlers are proceeding from Scapa at 1700 today to carry out an A/S Patrol between Butt of Lewis Flannan Island and position 059° N. 007° 30' W. (A.C.O.S. 1204/25 to Adty.)

Azores.

D.O.D.(F) 1816/25 to F.O.C.N.F. see North Atlantic.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

OSIRIS. Sailed, escorted by GULLFOSS, at 0820 for Sheerness.
(V.A. Dover 0825/25).

Arrived Sheerness for Chatham escorted by H.M.T. GULLFOSS at 1355/25.
(C.in C. Nore 1522/25).

Azores Patrol. a. Intend following programme for maintenance of Azores Patrol and return of submarines of 8th Flotilla to Gibraltar.
f. Routes from Portsmouth to Azores will be ordered by F.O.S.
g. Cancel para. B. of my 1156/21.
(F.O.S. 1019/25 to Adty.).

Operation STEEL. Operation STEEL completed.
My 1011/23 restrictions on attacking Merchant ships are cancelled.
(S.O. 1212/25 to SUNFISH).

H.31. Submarine H 31 completed and proceeded down river 25/1. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1212/25).

Positions. At 0800/26 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1736/25).

L. 27. Intend to sail L 27 unescorted diving by day at 1630/26 through 50°N. 3° W. to R/V. with an M L 110°. Start Point 3 miles at 1000/27.
(S.S. 1855/25 to Adty.).

PANDORA. E.T.A. position W 0900/27.
8 mark 8 and 6 mark 4 torpedoes on board.
(PANDORA 2257/25 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Ordered for today. R.C. of Norwegian Coast Bergen to Lister by 3 a/c from Wick taking off 0845. HORNLI taking off 1030.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0906/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

My 0906 HORNLI cancelled owing to weather.(C. in C. Rosyth 1002/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

Request following air patrols.
(A) During daylight/26th as in my 0055/20 modified as far as practicable to meet requirement stated in paragraph 2 of my 1440/24 to 18 group.
(B) Patrol FUGLE during daylight/27th with new starting point 64° N. 5° West. (C. in C. H.F. 1959/25 to C in C. Rosyth.

My 1959/25. If practicable would like patrols increased as follows.
During daylight/ 26th FUGLE and the patrol referred to in para.(A) of my 1059. Similar patrols during daylight/27th.
2. If all these cannot be done FUGLE on 26th should be surrendered first. (C. in C. H.F. 2029/25 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 2029/25. The following increased patrols will be flown daylight 26th and 27th., amended Fugle Datum point 64° N. 05° W., mean line of patrol 330 degs. same length. Two cross over patrols as in my 1750/20/1 but amended datum point 61° N. 12° W, similar length and datum point for second displaced accordingly.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2258/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Lorient.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Lorient. AP/788 25/1. Repeat tonight operations ordered for night 24th/25th. (H.Q.C.C. 1030/25 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

A/C for Iceland. Your 1637/25. (1) Intention is ultimately to send in addition to Norwegian seaplane squadron, one squadron of G.R. land planes, one squadron of long range fighters and one squadron of flying boats.
(3) No dates for departure of these aircraft can yet be given.
(4) Re Operational control. (5th S.L. 1758/25 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Enemy Air Activity.

MERIONES. Bombed. South Middle Haisboro sand. (Lyness Recd. 1319/25.) (Humber Radio 1459/25.)

NORMAN. (Rescue Tug) Attacked bombed South Middle Haisborough.(Lyness W/T. 1403/25.)

STAD ARNHEM. (Dutch, 3819 Tons.) Proceed to search for survivors probably Dutch ship STAD ARNHEM in 055° 40' North 015° 18' West at 1154/25.(C. in C.W.A. 1651/25 to SKEENA.)

LURIGETHAN. Estimated position 53° 50' N. 15° 40' W Fuel remaining 80 tons. Tug not met. LURIGETHAN all after hatches on fire, expect Magazine explode any time, bridge and forward hatch intact. Will attempt towage if weather conditions allow. Your 1654/25 received and understood. (ARABIS 1700/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

/MOSTYN.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

MOSTYN.

Detach one Trawler to rendezvous with Tug SALVONIA endeavouring to locate S.S. MOSTYN in 054° 30' N. 014° 52' W.(C. in C. W.A. 1709/25 to SALADIN.)

Your 1729/24 and 1049/25. Have searched betwgen 054° 10' N. and 054° 50'N.014° 20' W and 015° 50'W. Found no traces of MOSTYN. Consider my position is accurate. Fuel will not permit continuing search tomorrow. Intend to abandon search at dark today. Tug SALVONIA and Lerwick aircraft not sighted. (SKEENA 1725/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

Survivors of MOSTYN landed Scapa from PHOEBE state. Aircraft which attacked them was a four engined land plane, type not identified, carrying British Markings on side of fuselage. No other markings seen. (A.C.O.S.1843/25 to Adty.)

RANJA.
(Operation "Rubble".)

(Swedish, 1380 Tons.) My 1315/25. Attacked in 58° 45' mins. N. 4° 10'E. at 1610/24 by a twin engine seaplane. Showers of Red Green and White Lights were seen, presumably tracers, coming from the Machine. Two bombs. Upper deck raked by machine gun fire. First Officer wounded. Boats pierced by machine gun bullets.(N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1720/25 to A.C.O.S.)

THEIR MERIT.

(M/S Trawler) Slightly damaged, by near miss of H.E. bomb at coaling wharf Great Yarmouth about 1530 today. 2 killed, 4 slightly wounded. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1916/25.)

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Harwich.	Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0824/25.)
A/C. Minelaying.	AP.789 25/1. For tonight.(H.Q.C.C. 1031/25 to 16bGroup, N. Coates.)
CORNEATH.	(British, 1096 Tons). In C.E.23. Sunk by mine in about 270° Botany Buoy one mile, at about 2000/24 in very thick weather. Reported 19 survivors accounted for out of 22. (C. in C. Nore 1117/25.)
S.N.7.	Your 1004/18. Order of laying is concurred in. (A.C.N.S.H.1141/25. to RAML.)
Humber.	Open to navigation. Ships are to pass to Northward of Gate vessel. Convoy anchorage, Northern and Southern examination anchorages, still remain closed.(F.O. Humber 1322/25.)
TEVIOT BANK. IMPULSIVE.	Arrived with WITHERINGTON in company at 1515. (F.O. Humber 1545/25.)
INTREPID.	Departure D.20 in INTREPID at 1640. (F.O. Humber 1705/25.)
Milford Haven.	Ground Mine self detonated 078° St. Anns Head 16.5 Cables.(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1806/25.)
Liverpool RUNSWICK BAY damaged.	Ming report to 1800/25. One detonated, 140°,Q2 Black Buoy 3 cables. One detonated 210° Q1 Black Buoy 4 cables. M/S trawler RUNSWICK BAY minor damaged. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1845/25.)
TASMANIA.	Arrived Leith Roads 1400/25. Damage hole 20 feet in diameter above waterline in port quarter. Hand steering only. Probability of further under water damage and leaking slightly. Speed 12 knots and difficulty in controlling. Repairs will involve dry dock. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1910/25.)

/SPURN.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

SPURN Point. — The following ten mines were exploded today. (F.O. Number 2136/25. and 1709/25.)

My 1820/22. Details of Mines exploded. (F.O.Number 2155/25.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Unit. — By D/F at 1117/25. Position of unknown enemy unit was 58° 10' N. 10° 30' E. Unreliable. fix. (D.D.I.C. 1152/25.)

By D/F at 1236 B.S.T. unidentified enemy unit probably surface vessel in position 58 N. 5 20 E. very indefinite fix.). (D.D.I.C. 1306/25) (F.O.S.1407/25 to S/M's Area B.)

My 1152/25 and 1306/25. Further information shows that this is probably the same unit. The position at 1117/25 should be regarded as the more reliable. (D.D.I.C. 1538/25.)

My 1407. Further information shows position to be 058° 10' N. 010° 30' E. (F.O.S. 1712/25 to S/M's Area A.)

Blocking of Kiel Canal. — Kiel Canal. (1) On 13/1 forepart of Swedish INGA had been cut as far as bridge. Barges were alongside after part clearing iron ore, expected to complete early February.
(2) During period of blockage caused by INGA sinking and further restriction when JOSEPH BERGENDORF collided reliable information states total 300 vessels were held up.(N.A. Stockholm 1204/24.)

/2 Heavy.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. Contd.

2 Heavy Ships breaking out.

Two heavy ships believed SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU passed Nyborg Pilot Station (four)(corrupt group) North bound at 1100/23. A.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1241/25.) (D.D.I.C. 1751/25.)

German main units at 1100/23 two large vessels believed GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST passed through Great Belt North bound. Graded A.2. Coastal Command are carrying out appropriate patrols and would very much appreciate your Battles patrolling Denmark Strait (W.O. 2305/25. to G.O.C. Iceland Force.

TORDENSKJOLD.

Your 2202/15. Norwegian TORDENSKJOLD passed through single belt southward in tow on Jan. 22nd. A two.
(N.A. Stockholm 1605/25 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Damage to Lifeboats.

Instances have occurred of ships' lifeboats being damaged or completely destroyed through being left turned-out in heavy weather. Masters should be allowed to exercise their discretion in regard to turning-in boats in heavy weather and Commodores of Convoys are to be informed accordingly. (D.T.D.1850/25.)

Weather Damage to Cargoes.

Cases have occurred of Merchant Ships in convoy and their cargoes having sustained heavy weather damage. The attention of Commodore should be drawn to the necessity of reducing speed or heaving-to in bad weather in order to assist those ships who, owing to the nature of their cargoes or inferior power, have difficulty in maintaining convoy speed, without incurring damage.(D.T.D.1854/25.)

Channel Convoys.

The number of ships specially fitted for service in Channel convoys is strictly limited. No avoidable delay in the turn round of these ships can be accepted. In particular fast ships should be included in slow FS or FN convoys where this will mean earlier arrival. (2046/25 to C in C's Nore, Rosyth.)

Coastal Convoys.

F.S.92.

F.S. Convoy 92 proceeded. (LONDONDERRY 0700/25 to C. in C. Nore.)

E.N.62.

W.N.72.

Act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 62 sailing at 1030/26. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail WESTON to join W N 75 due Duncansby Head 1300/28. Code Word for E N 62 Mission and W N 75 Material.(C. in C. Rosyth 0930/25 to WESTON.)

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

O.B.278. Londonderry departures 25/1. SALADIN SKATE SARDONYX MALLOW NORTHERN SPRAY NORTHERN PRIDE ST.ELSTON ANEMONE for O B 278.(Capt. D. Londonderry 0945/25.)

F.N.91. Southend 25/1 departure for Methil for onward routeing to Clyde A.O.B. MALVERNIAN with convoy F.N.91.(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1010/25.)

F.S.95. If my 1240/24 not received proceed so as to R.V. F.S.95 due Outer Dowsing 1200 today. S.O. of Escort, VANITY (N.O.I.C. Humber, 1011/25. to PUFFIN.)

F.N.90. Arrived. 1015/25.(N.C.S.O. Methil 1024/25.)

F.S.95. 63 Ships.(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1118/25.)

F.S.94. The 5 ships previously reported with PUFFIN have not been seen. Commodore and remaining ships are with me off South Shipwash.(COTSWOLD 1130/25 to WESTMINSTER.)

5 M.V.'s for E.N. Convoy. Request you will sail ELIZABETH BAKKE JOHN BAKKE, TAURUS, TAISHAN, and DICTO, to join next convenient E.N. convoy for the Clyde.(D.O.D.(H) 1136/25 to A.C.O.S. (Became Convoy E.S., see 27/1.)

My 1136/25. As these ships are carrying extremely valuable cargoes C. in C. W. App. is requested to provide additional escort from as far north as possible. A.C.O.S. to inform C. in C. W.A. in which convoy they will be sailed.(D.O.D.2014/25. to C.in C. W.A, A.C.O.S.).

W.N.73. E.T.A. Kinnaird Head 1900/25 speed of advance 8 knots.(SOUTHERN PRIDE, 1145/25.)

/F.N. and F.S.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

F.N. and F.S.

Amend my 1132/23/1. to read:-

F N.	F S.
91.	- WIDGEON.
92.	96 SNAPDRAGON.
93.	- PUFFIN.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1208/25. to C. in C. Nore, etc.)

My 1208/25 for F N 92 and F S 96, Read PUFFIN instead of SNAPDRAGON.(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1069/26.)

F.S.96. SELKIRK.

Anticipate sailing SELKIRK in time to catch up with F.S.96 today.(F.O. Humber, 1223/25, to C. in C. Nore.)

SELKIRK leaves Humber 1300 on passage to Harwich and will join escort of F.S.95 if possible.(C. in C. Nore, 1240/25 to VANITY.)

Humber 25/1. Departure SELKIRK at 1500 to join F.S.96 thence Harwich. (F.O. Humber, 1521/25, to Admty etc.)

W.N.73.

Scapa, departures 0930 CURACOA and JASON to escort Convoy W.N.73.(A.C.O.S., 1235/25.)

F.S.92.

Convoy F.S.92 reported in Barrow Deep 6 ships for London.(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1247/25.)

F.N.91.

Sailed 1006/25. 46 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1317/25.)

W.N.76.

My 1045/25 not to Admiralty. Sailed H.M.Y. CORSAIR escorted by A/S Trawlers KING SOL and STELLA CAPELLA. Trawlers also for W.N.76. Rothesay Bay 2100/25. (F.O.I.C.Belfast, 1425/25, to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/F.S.94.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

F.S.94. Convoy F S 94 reported in Barrow Deep 17 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1552/25 to Admty.)

S.N.73A. E.T.A. Kinnaird 1900. CURACOA parts company at dark. Returns to Scapa.(C. in C. Rosyth 1644/25.)

7.M.V.'s. Intend sailing 7 M/V's at 1700/26 escorted by H.M.Y. MAID MARION, E.T.A.(N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1648/25.)

O.B.278. Londonderry Departure 26/1 NORTHERN DAWN for O.B.278. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1741/25.)

F.N.91. 12 Ships one H.M.T. and six Trawlers from Humber, joining at 62 D buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1742/25.)

E.N.62. 1030/26. H.M.T'S INDIAN STAR (S.O.) FOXTROT additional escort WESTON, 29 ships (18 overseas) Code Words:- E N 62. MISSION, E.N.L. Portion MONITOR, E N O Portion MIXTURE. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1839/25.)

OGM 51.
ALSEY. Controlled minelaying trawler ALSEY sailed in convoy O G M 51. E.T.A. Fayal, Azores, (date) (N.O.I.C. Milford H., 1855/25. to Admty etc.)

F.N.91. 12 Ships one H.M. Trawler and 6 Trawlers joining F N 91 at Outer Dowsing. (C. in C. Rosyth 1932/25 to LONDONDERRY, WOLFHOUND, amended 0947/26.)

/W.N.75.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

W.N.75. Sailed 1823/25. Escort H.M.Trawlers BERKSHIRE(S O) and ST. APOLLO. 17 ships. Ten with kites.(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1940/25.)

F.S.92. Arrived except TOMSK.(N.C.S.O.Thames, 2010/25.)

C.W.24. Intend to sail C.W. 24 from Southend on 29/1. Timetable with names of escorts and number of M/Vs will be signalled later. (C. in C. Nore, 2124/25. to Admty.)

Three A/S Trawlers are to be sailed to arrive Southend before dark on 28/1 to form escort of C.W.24.Trawlers detailed should act as escort for FITZROY proceeding in tow of KENIA to Sheerness. Fighter protection will be asked for.(C. in C. Nore, 2130/25 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

F.N.91. F.N.91 with 52 ships due number 5 Bucy 0200/26. (LONDONDERRY, 2218/25, to FLEETWOOD.)

F.N.90.
F.S.95. Rosyth 25/1, Arrivals VALOROUS, VORTIGERN with F.N.90 - includes M.L.169 on passage to Fort William and SHOALFISHER on passage Tyne - Devonport via Oban, Departures,GARTH, for F.S.95 and Sheerness. (C. in C Rosyth,2237/25.)

W.N.76. Sailed A/S trawler FANDANGO for WN 76, E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0900/26. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2335/25.)

Ocean Convoys.
H.X. 103. Meet. (C. in C.W.A.,1021/25 to WHITEHALL VISCOUNT WINCHELSEA,VANQUISHER GENTIAN VERBENA.

/H.G.50.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

H.G.50.	H.G.50 and S L S 61 THELMA (undamaged) arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1205/25. to Admty.)
S.L.S.61.	
O.G.51.	If ready A/S trawler RUBENS is to be sailed to Gibraltar in O.G.51.(R.V.) (C. in C.W.A. 1309/25. to Commodore, WESTERN ISLES.)
H.G.50. H.X.101.	My 1207/25. FENDRIS only ship in H.G.50B for Bristol Channel dropped astern during night will be late at rendezvous. Keep sharp look out also for SAN CIRILO Ex H.X.101 bound for Barry Roads which should have joined Convoy today.(C. in C. W.A. 1607/25 to DERBY COUNTY.)
O.G.50.	O.G.50, 64 (as received.) hours early at Oll(?) West. 8 Ships present of which 5 part company at Cape St. Vincent. 2 others for Gibraltar lost touch and are believed to be 12 hours ahead. (DEPTFORD,1806/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)
O.G.M.51.	1855/25.H.M.T. LEEDS UNITED. One Ship and H.M.T. ALSEY. (F.O.I.C. Milford H., 1900/25.)
O.G.51.	Fayal for Sierra Leone H.M.T. ALSEY (45) E.T.A. Lisbon MACBRAE (12) E.T.A. Lisbon MACBRAE (12) E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1900/25.)
H.X.102.	My 1245/25, Estimate convoy H.X.102, Approx. 20 ships will cross your track before midnight.(C. in C.W.A., 2159/25. to GARLAND LEOPARD repeated ABERDEEN WITCH WILD SWAN FLEUR DE LYS PERIWINKLE CAMPANULA GARDENIA.

/PORT HUNTER.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

PORT HUNTER.

(British, 8825 Tons). Now expects to pass boom outward bound for Curacao at 2200/25. Route through Minches and thence as follows:- Request air protection. (N.O.S.O. Clyde 1215/25 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

MILITARY CONVOYS W.S.6.

Your 2207/22. At the time of this commitment the only destroyers working up, other than Home Fleet and HUNT Class, will be NIZAM and LEGION. These will be available. KEPPEL will also be made available and DOUGLAS will have joined Western Approaches Command. (C. in C. H.F. 1437/25 to Adty.)

A/S. Escort.

Your 1437/25. In addition to ships named request you will detail two Hunts. (D.O.D.H. 1637/25. to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

Unknown Ship.	Following intercepted from unknown station at 1013 G.M.T. begins (jammed) ship breaks in two have save what can. Ends. Please keep sharp look out. (Wick Radio 1013/25.)
MORVEN HILL.	(Naval Control Service S/Drifter)Damaged whilst going alongside S/S BRITTANY COAST at 1730/24 in Methil Roads. No apparent damage to other vessel. Request A.S. Rosyth arrange survey. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1020/25.)
SPEY.	Ashore on Coquet Island. Amble C.G. report crew brought ashore by lifeboat. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1227/25.)
WIRTA.	My 1651/24. WIRTA is breaking in two and has been abandoned. Crew safe. (F.O.Iceland 1256/25.)
M.T.B.30. M.T.B.3D	M.T.B.31 and 30 in collision while leaving Harbour on 23/1. M.T.B.31 sustained damage to bow. M.T.B.30 damage to starboard side abreast bridge involving torpedo tube. No casualties. M.T.B.31 can be repaired here. Damage to M.T.B.30 is beyond capabilities of BEEHIVE. She is being made serviceable for passage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1603/25.)
BANDAR SHAHPOUR.	BANDAR SHAHPOUR ex Convoy O B O 275 damaged in collision with KORSFJORD has put into Stornoway. No casualties. Requires docking and dockyard repairs. Able to proceed under own steam. Request instructions. KORSFJORD sunk. 19 survivors landed Stornoway, two lost. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1700/25.)
KORFSJORD (Norwegian, 1620 tons)	

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

French Submarines

French Admiralty via N.A. announce submarines AMPHITRITE SIBYLLE AMAZONE escorted by a small surface vessel will pass Gibraltar eastbound 28/1 between 1000 and 1200 hours. (N.A.Madrid 1613/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Germans at Casablanca

Reliable source states German representative Casablanca is now exerting his powers. He has forbidden further repairs to military plants and has stopped import of stone crushing machinery brought by SS MARSHALL LYAUTEY. This cargo is supposed to be re-exported to France when MARSHAL LYAUTEY returns from Dakar. Germans propose to take over control from Italian Armistice Commission. Telegram No 1686 (Consul General, Tangier, T.H.I., 1813/24)

North Atlantic

Cable Operation LEYLAND MIRROR

Gibraltar 25/1 0930 departure LEYLAND escorting cable ship MIRROR for operation off Tangier and Cadiz. (S.O.I., Gib., 0940/25 to Admty.)

Report of Ship from Casablanca to Bordeaux

Following is a repetition of my 1056/24 (no trace of previous receipt in W.R.) (begins) Admty. 819 from F.O.C.N.A., My 1822/18. Confirmed SS SAINTE LOIUSE ex German SS TRIFELS 1056/24 (ends) (F.O.C.N.A. 1138/25 to Admty.)

OTUS

Position of submarine at 0500/26 and movements for the following 24 hours OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/25)

Passage of German Air Personnel

Reported ship leaving Corunna today 25/1 for Canary Islands having on board 15 German Air Force personnel travelling with South American passports. Any ships from Corunna Vigo or Ferrol on or about this date which are encountered should be examined closely and if doubt exists sent to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1229/25)

/SCOTTISH.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

SCOTTISH
ALOUETTE
MIRROR
LEYLAND
NORTHERN PRINCE

SCOTTISH on patrol off Lisbon onwards ALOUETTE on patrol between Cape St. Mary's and Cadiz. Cable ship MIRROR escorted by LEYLAND is working cable in position 036° 18' N., 006° 25' W., NORTHERN PRINCE escorted by one destroyer sails Westbound 2000/26. (F.O.C.N.A., 1446/25 to JERSEY, JUPITER)

Daily summary operations. 2 routine A/S patrols. 1 surface recco. West. Area covered 4° 45' W.,-10°W. (200 Group, 1700/25)

Azores

Until further orders paragraphs 5 and 6 of Admty 2146/30/10 (re possible attempt by enemy to capture Azores) are to be considered in abeyance. (D.O.D. (F) 1816/25 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Spain

Bi-weekly Report. German pressure for passage to attack Gibraltar certain but will be refused. Attempt to force passage most improbable at present. (N.A. Madrid, 1834/25)

ALSEY

Controlled minelaying trawler, left for Payal, Azores. (N.O.I.C., Milford Haven, 1855/25 - see Shipping & Convoys)

South Atlantic

HIGHLAND
CHIEFTAIN
ORMONDE
EMPRESS OF
AUSTRALIA

My 1154/11. Re disposal of personnal. (D. of S.T. 0221/25 Amended 0223/26 to C. in C. S.A.) See Operations Vol.

Troopships dry docking.

Situation at Durban (N.O.I.C., Durban 0830Z/25)

DELHI

Return to Freetown so as to sail 0730/28 (c. in C., S.A., 0939M/25 to DELHI)

/DORSETSHIRE...

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

DORSETSHIRE — Your 1123/23. (No trace W/R) After fuelling at St. Helena proceed to Freetown so as to arrive p.m./29 passing close to Ascension. (C. in C., S.A., 1045N/25 to DORSETSHIRE)

W.S. 5 B — Arrived a.m./25. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1257/N/25) See Operation Volume.

Force K — 25/1. Capetown departure and Simonstown arrival force K. C. in C., E.I., 1306/23? refers. (F.O.I.C., Simonstown, 14032/25)

Raiders "A" and "D" — Re C. in C., S.A's 1337N/23 and a plain language signal from Magistrate South Georgia reporting unknown ship at harbour mouth for which a cancellation was not received, I returned to Grytviken at maximum speed. Am proceeding again in accordance with my 1539Z/22.
N.O.I.C. Falkland Isles please repeat to Admty., C. in C., S.A.D. (QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1424/25)

1424/25 Passed to you (N.O.I.C., Port Stanley 18342/25)

COMMANDANT DUBOC — Admty. 1217/22/12. Orders for. (D.O.D. (F) 1748/25) See Operations Volume.

BULLFINCH — Your 1202/23. Route and instructions. (D.A./S.W. 1815/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock,) See operations Volume.

Convoy W.S. 6 — Your 1923/22. Re water supply. (D. of S.T. 1916/25 to C. in C., S.A.,) See Operations Volume.

Your 1045/25 acknowledged. Arrived St. Helena 1900Z/25 and commenced fuelling. Expect to pass close to Ascension 1700Z/27 and arrive Outer end of Freetown swept channel 1230 plus 1 29/1. (DORSETSHIRE, 2100Z/25 to C. in C., S.A.)

/Shipping.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Shipping movements	Southbound ships crossing 20° N., Approx noon positions 26/1 and Routes. (D.T.D., 1206/25 to S.A. Station)
DEVONSHIRE DRAGON MENDOZA	My 1123/23 On arrival St. Helena DEVONSHIRE is to proceed to Ascension meet MENDOZA there and provide cover until DRAGON can join. DRAGON is to complete with fuel and proceed to join DEVONSHIRE at Ascension when both ships are to escort MENDOZA to Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1325/25 to DEVONSHIRE, DRAGON)
Enemy Unit	D.F.'s at 03172/25 suggest U-Boat or auxiliary within 80 miles of position either 006° S 013° W., or between Cape Blanco and Canary Islands. Reliability of position 45% and 35% respectively. (C. in C., S.A., 1343N/25 to S.A. Station)
Suspicious Vessel ? Disguised Submarine	British ship CLAN MACNAIR reports following 12002/1 in 051° 20' N., 027° 44' W., sighted seven miles strange small craft one funnel amidships two masts foremast taller than main mast. Appearance trawler steering 45 then attempting to close. Rain storm lasting ten minutes obscured strange craft which was not seen again. Master of opinion she was submarine disguised. (S.O(I) Capetown 1502/25)
ISMAILA	Commodore Birnie and Commodore Illingworth in steamship ISMAILA from Clyde due Freetown (date) (N.C.S.O., Mersey, 1644/25 to S.O.I. Freetown)
Dispositions	Weekly state at 1200/25 (C. in C., S.A., 15132/25)
NEWCASTLE	NEWCASTLE arrived Buenos Aires 1500 zone + 3 24/1. Intend depart 1430 zone + 3 25/1 and rendezvous with CUMBERLAND in position 35° S., 53° 30' W., at 18002/26 (NEWCASTLE, 1729/25 to C. in C., A.W.I., R.A.S.A.D. etc.,)

/START POINT....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.1.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd

START POINT — My 2150/12. START POINT has no charts of Freetown or Approaches. (D.T.D. 1732/25 to C. in C., S.A., N.C.S.O., Freetown)

VELOX
VIDETTE — Owing to difficulty of cleaning three boilers together at Bathurst, intend to defer boiler cleaning of VELOX and VIDETTE until arrival at Gibraltar. Anticipate VELOX and VIDETTE will sail for Gibraltar after fuelling at Bathurst about 5/2. My 1415/24 refers. (C. in C., S.A., 1901N/25)

Cable Ships — Your telegram W. 9 of 22/1 to secretary of state para 6 (b) Operation of cable ships is arranged by Admty., Similar proposals have already been forwarded to Admty in my 0825/16 repeated to Governor Nigeria. Brazzaville C 26 of 21/1, being passed to you and Admty, also refers. (C. in C., S.A., 2015N/25 to Waggon, Lagos)

Raider Situation — I concur generally with the summary given in your 1951/4/1. Suggest raider D was the one north of Bermuda by D/F 21/12. Raider E it is possible was the one the D.F. bearings indicated on 19/11, 20/12 and 4/1 about positions 50° S., 28° W., 15° S., 13° W and 28° S 6° W., respectively else these positions might have been VON SCHEER. (C. in C., S.A., 2331/25 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Guns.

Your 2313/20, barrels and guns shipped in W.S. 6. My 2206/22 (not to F.O.C.N.A. C.S.3) refers. Outstanding items of gunmounting spares will be forwarded as soon as possible.
(D.A.S. 0655/25 to C. in C. Med).

DAINTY.
PROTECTOR.
JAGUAR.
REGENT.

Take PROTECTOR and JAGUAR under your orders and sail p.m./25 to proceed to approx. position 032° 30'N. 024° 00'E. at 1300/26, thence carry out an A/S sweep, to (? proceed out of) Kathera Channel thence Suda Bay. On arrival Suda Bay DAINTY and JAGUAR are to be at disposal of S.B.N.O. Suda Bay to reinforce (?other) patrols until further orders. REGENT expected time of arrival Alexandria sanctuary 0500/26 direct from position 033° 00'N. 024° 36'N. 024° 36'E. FIONA pass to S.N.O. Inshore Squadron. T.O.O. 0913/25.
(C. in C. Med, 0917/25 to DAINTY).

Genoa Air Reccon.

Your 1217/23. (Air reconnaissance of Genoa required). This will be arranged by R.A.A. Mediterranean as soon as special aircraft is serviceable and weather is suitable.
(V.A. Malta 1015/25 to Admty).

Patrols. Crete.

Standing Patrol in Kithera and Anti Kithera Channel has been established by Corvettes. One A/S Trawler R. Elaphonisos Channel will be relieved by a Greek T.B. S.B.N.O. Suda Bay inform Mediterranean Fleet of date of relief. Orders for these Patrols are contained in Mediterranean 00211/5 of 21/1 in course of distribution. T.O.O.1151/25.
(C. in C. Med 1153/25 to Med. Fleet).

/Air.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Air Report.

Summary No. 229 up to 1200 hours 25/1 1941.

Rhodes bombed.

Egypt. Night 23/24 Jan. 2 Wellingtons dropped 5000 lbs of bombs on Maritza aerodrome Rhodes starting small fires.

Protection of Convoy.

Day 24/1. Following operations undertaken to prevent enemy air attack on special convoy during passage Malta to Alexandria.
5 Blenheims dropped 500 lbs. of bombs on Sidi Magrun landing ground damaging 2 aircraft.
8 Blenheims bombed dispersed aircraft on Soluch landing ground no damage reported.
8 Blenheims bombed Maraua landing ground.
Hurricanes patrolled between Mechili and Martuba, enemy aircraft encountered, 1 Hurricane missing.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1216/25).

Operation "Inspection" ILLUSTRIOUS.

ILLUSTRIOUS has arrived Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 1351/25 to Admty).

Enemy Ship.

Aircraft report at 1110A/25 5000 ton laden motor ship escorted by auxiliary(ies) 037° 40', 011° 42' course 225° 15 knots.
(V.A.(S) Malta 1433/25 to UPHOLDER).

ILLUSTRIOUS.
SOUTHAMPTON.
A/C attacks on 10/1.

Your 1531/23.
(A) Attacks on Mediterranean Fleet on 10/1 were made as follows:-
1223 T/B attack by 2 T/B aircraft on Battle Fleet.
1235 Upwards of 25 Ju. 87 and 88 made D/B attacks on ILLUSTRIOUS, Battle Fleet and Cruisers.
1330 H.L.B. attacks on ILLUSTRIOUS.
1600 - 1700 Upwards of 30 aircraft made D/B attacks on ILLUSTRIOUS and Battle Fleet.
1920. T/B attack on ILLUSTRIOUS off Grand Harbour.
The torpedoes dropped in the T/B attacks all missed and the H.L.B. attacks obtained no hits and did no damage. The D/B attacks obtained 6 hits on ILLUSTRIOUS, 3 on SOUTHAMPTON, 1 on GLOUCESTER (unexploded) and caused slight damage by near misses to WARSPITE and VALIANT.
The only attempt at synchronisation of T/B with D/B attacks appears to have been in the case of the first attacks.
Fighters did not intercept in first D/B attack as they were chasing T/B aircraft.

/To.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

ILLUSTRIOUS. SOUTHAMPTON. A/C attacks on 10/1. (contd).

To this extent attempt at synchronisation if such was made, appears to have achieved considerable measure of success.
Two confirmed casualties obtained in first D/B attacks with gunfire, but fire discipline reported not good. Importance of special fire distribution officer or rating at each close range weapon received further emphasis.
In second D/B attacks 6 confirmed JU.87 and 4 S.87 plus 1 and 4 respectively unconfirmed are claimed by Fulmars.
Further remarks (technical).
Fleet Order summarising all experience gained to date and including this change of principle will be issued shortly.
(D.T.S.D. 1639/25 to C. in C. M.F).

Malta Air Report.

X.5525. Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 25/1. All times G.M.T.
At 1010 sighted M/V 5,000 tons escorted by fleet auxiliary position 37° 40'N. 11° 42'east, course 225° speed 15 knots appeared heavily laden. Naval authorities informed.
1003 to 1010 a Junkers 88 flew over Island at considerable height evidently on reconnaissance as no bombs dropped. Two Hurricanes up. No interceptions.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/25).

Italian European prisoners skilled in building and engineering trades may be required for employment in U.K. Such prisoners should not repeat not be transferred to India without reference to us.
(W.O. 1800/25 to C. in C. M.E.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

MEW. Intelligence Cente. Behrein. Contraband.

Re. Adty 1701/6/10/40.
(1) Can information be given when M.E.W. Intelligence Centre Bahrein will be established (?) numerous reports of contraband received from Indian censorship (some details).
(C. in C.E.I 0500Z/25).

Convoy B.N. 13.

Due Suez today. 39 ships with supplies for Middle East, total gross tonnage 200,000. Rear-Adm. Clegg Commodore.
(D.S. 508, 25/1).

ANTENOR Convoy B.N.F. one.

Cancel my 1306/22 ANTENOR is to proceed overtake B.N.F. one and reinforce escort as far as 055° E. and then return to Bombay for boiler cleaning.
(C. in C. E.I., 0709Z/25 to ANTENOR.).

Force V.
CANBERRA.
LEANDER.
SYDNEY.
COLOMBO.
PEARLEAF.
Search for Raider.

(i) Ships are to search following area, speed being adjusted to cover as much as possible in daylight. It is estimated that each ship can reach its area by daylight 26/1.
(ii) CANBERRA in area enclosed by following points.
A. 004° 30'N. 063° 40'.
B. 003° 10'N. 063° 10'.
C. 001° 30'N. 067° 50'.
D. 000° 40'N. 066° 50'.
(iii) LEANDER in area enclosed by points C. and D. above and E. 002° 00'S. 069° 40' and F. 002° 10'S. 068° 20'.
(iv) SYDNEY within a radius 300 miles from Davis Point 004° 18' S. 061° 00'. bounded by line of bearing 340° and 050° from Davis Point.
(v) COLOMBO is to patrol along a line between 001° S. 059° E. and 003° 30'S. 053° E. speed 14½ knots.
(vi) Oiler PEARLEAF will be in the vicinity 1½° Channel a.m./27.
(C. in C. E.I. 0710Z/25 to Force V).

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Enemy Unit.

Your 1832/23. Frequency 5315 kcs. No preamble heard. Text presumed 4 letter code groups last moteorological. Station only heard WLIX.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0721Z/25 to Admty).

R.N.V.R. Kenya. Tanganyika Zanzibar.

(1) In order to obtain maximum efficiency in local Naval Defence operations in East Africa and Zanzibar, the Naval Volunteer Force in Kenya Tanganyika and Zanzibar, while maintaining their respective indentities, are available to act in conjunction on any particular operation (such as mine clearance, coastal patrol) at my discretion.
(2) N.O.I/C East Africa and Zanzibar will direct these forces when taking combined action, and as my representative, is impowered to act for me in an emergency requiring immediate co-ordinate action in area. He will dso act as adviser on minor Naval matters to Governor Kenya Tanganyika the British Resident Zanzibar.
(3) Colonial Office is in touche with above Authorities concerning means for removing any legal difficulties.
(C. in C. E.I. 0730/25 to N.O.I.C. Kilindini, R.O's Zanzibar, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika).

Ships for B.N. Convoys.

Cancel my 0708/26/12. Ships for B.N. convoys should be sailed at best speed as and when ready.
(C. in C. E.I. 0724/25).

Convoy B.S.13½.

Sailing telegram 0600 G.M.T./25. Ships.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 0914/25).

Interception of Japanese Ships.

My 0612/23 (i) YAMAHUZI MARU passed Singapore 1700/23 bound for Bahrein. C. o.S. Singapore reports nothing known of GOSEIMARU.
(ii) Intend therefore that previous orders for intercepting GOSEIMARU should be taken as applying to YAMAHUZI MARU instead. Please inform censorship authorities.
(C. in C. E.I. 1002/25 to Admty).

/Port.....

War Diary.

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Saturday. -

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Port Sudan.

Re use as transhipment post.
(C. in C. E.I. 11442/15)
See Operations Volume.

Convoy U.S. 8.

Date vessels leave Suez in B.S. F.2. etc.
(S.S.T.O. Egypt 1215/25 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).
See Operations Volume.

Force K.

FORMIDABLE and HAWKINS will form Force K. temporarily while on passage to Aden.
(D.O.D. (F) 1320/25 to C. in C'S).

Troop Movement.

In view of N.B. Melbourne 2010/24 is it possible to allocate any other ships for the move referred to in S.S.T.O. India's 1317/20 which Admiralty inform me is an urgent necessity. Fast ones are specially desirable so that they may if possible reach Durban by 10/2. Is DOMINION MONARCH available?.
(C. in C. E.I. 1420/25 to F.O.C.R.I.N.).

Your 2247/18 and S.S.T.O. India 1317/20. Can CHRISTIAN HUYGENS be used if she can be got to Durban in time.
(C. in C. E.I. 1424Z/25 to D. of S.T).

W.S.5B. release of 2 Ships.

D. of S.T's 2247/18. Will NIEUW HOLLAND be available and can you suggest any other ship (ii) Admiralty attaches greatest importance to release of ships for meat trade.
(C. in C. E.I. 1422Z/25 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Storage of wheat at Burdur Shapur.

Your 0626/15. Ask censorship to pass this information to Legation at Teheran.
(D.E.W.D. 1445/25 to S.O.I. Bombay).

/S.S.KYRIAKI.....

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

S.S.KYRIAKI on fire. (Greek) here with fire in bunkers. Fire now out discharging bunkers and coal cargo.(N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1554z/25.

NYMPHE
EVOIKOS. Greek ships NYMPHE and EVOIKOS due Aden shortly for orders are to be sent to Piraeus. (D.T.D. 1944/25 to N.C. S.O. Aden.)

Mogadishu. Proposed operation. (D.of P., 1946/25. to C. in C. E.I.)

Whaless, Renaming. Your 1210/S/11. Proposed named approved. (Head of P. Branch, 2054/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

Operation "B reach". So Force K. 2159Z/25. See Operations Volume.

Flying Boat Bases. Mombasa, Durban, Ceylon etc. Plans, (Air Ministry X.135, No.T.O.O./25/. See Operations Volume.

China.

S.S. PINA. (Greek) Suspicious circumstances. Meantime am holding ship at Hong Kong. (N.O.I.C. Hong Kong 0415Z/25 to D of S.T.)

America & West Indies.

KING
GEORGE.V. Movements. (KING, GEORGE V. 0121/25.) See Operations Volume.

KING GEORGE V. arrived Annapolis 1800/24. Passengers landed satisfactorily. Ship refuelled and fresh provisioned and sailed 1,000/25. (N.A. Washington 1350/25.)

S/M sighted 19/1. My 1055/23 S/M report should be treated with reserve. Navy Department consider reliability of source poor. (N.A. Washington 1010/25.)

/Examination.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

Examination of mail from Portuguese and Spanish ships.

Your 1651/2/12, and 2048/5/12. No Portuguese or Spanish ships have yet made calls at Bermuda. Request information whether these ships are likely to carry mails and be required to call. (C. in C. A.W.I, 1002/25 to Adty.)

Contraband Control at Bermuda.

My 1052/3. Situation regarding vessels of American Export Line arriving Bermuda from Lisbon is still most unsatisfactory. Proposal.
(11) S.S. EXCAMBION which passed through Bermuda recently carried 15 passengers whose names did not appear on list approved by British passport control Lisbon. My 1532/18. Consul Lisbon had informed me by telegram of some of these, but his list was inaccurate and incomplete. Passive obstruction on part of ship's Officer in producing passengers for examination was experienced. As examination of passengers is at present exercised by Bermuda Government, full control is not in my hands, but would be glad of Adty's view as to whether detention of U.S. Ship for a short period as a lesson is considered desirable in the event of further obstruction.(C. in C. A.W.I. 1012/25.)

Japanese mediation in Thai-Indo-China dispute.

Task Force, orders.(N.A. Washington 1011/25.)

The presence of this strong force at Camranh Bay, as well as providing an advanced base in the South, will ensure that Japan's settlement of the Thai - Indo China dispute is accepted without demur.

Diversion of shipping.

Your 1640/23 and 1722/11/11/40. Can it be assumed that accurate lettered positions are to be given on all Ocean Routes reported, thus enabling authorities abroad as well as at home to divert any ship clear of some dangerous area.(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1138/25.)

/WESTLAND.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

WESTLAND.	N X 106. My 1544/25. (advance sailing telegram). Dutch ship WESTLAND carrying one Lockheed and 3 Douglas Bombers. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1545/25, to Admty.)
Convoys T.C.9. H.X.106.	Your 1635/23, para. 3 and my 1511/10. More satisfactory employment of available capital ships will now result from the use of ROYAL SOVEREIGN for T.C.9. RAMILLIES would escort H.X.106. Intend to arrange accordingly. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1620/25. to Adty.)
COMORIN ASCANIA.	Halifax departure 25/1. COMORIN for Bermuda, ASCANIA ocean escort? H X 105. (F.O.I. Halifax 1735/25 to Admty etc.)
PORPOISE SURCOUF.	B.S.3. 1902/24,(ASCANIA and PORPOISE as Ocean Escorts for H.X. 105.) Is the return of PORPOISE to U.K. in accordance with Admiralty wishes? SURCOUF will probably be worked up and ready to sail about 20/2. PORPOISE is due to refit about mid April. My 1914/13/1 and para. 3 of my No. 116/SM0028 of 23/1. refer. (F.O.(S) 1941/25. to Admty.)
Halifax Escort Force & Northern Patrol.	R.A.3.B.S. 1953/25. See Operations Volume.
Dutch Tankers.	New Zealand. Your 08032/17, no objection as regards Area Eleven. Request consideration may be given to use of Dutch Tankers for oiling by Naval Units in cases of emergency., (N.2.N.B. 2202/25.)

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TRIFELS. Now S.S. SAINTE LOUISE (F.O.C.N.A. 1136/25.) See North Atlantic.

ADANA. Completed discharging cargo at Genoa on 21/1. Ship was previously refuging at Cagliari, Sardinia, not known when she moved to Genoa. (D.S.509.)

ACHAIA. At Trieste, reported to her owners at Bremen on 23/1, she had no engine-room defects, but was without engine - room personnel and urgently requiring an engineer and a cook. (D.S. 509.)

SULZBURG. Completed docking at Cartagena on 21/1 and is now loading iron ore.(D.S.509.)

NORBURG. Arrived Istanbul 24/1. (N.C.S.O. Galata 1221/25.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MARCO POLO. Stated by The Times Special Correspondent to be a burnt out wreck in harbour. (Times 25/1. D.S.509.)

MAYA. Departure in ballast for Batoum.(Vice Consul, Varna, 1214/25.)

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA. — See South Atlantic.

JEAN L.D. — My 1135/24. Ship was routed to keep at least 300 miles from coast. Master instructed to destroy ship if sighted and resist a boarding party. He considered lightly loaded ship difficult to scuttle and contemplated setting fire to ship. Not clear why no action taken possibly due to distance from coast coupled with dislike of these instructions. Ship took 400 Senegalese troops from Casablanca to Dakar and refused to take 600 Senegalese troops from Dakar to (Madagascar) as ship not suitably fitted for troops. Master pro De Gaulle. Gave following information:- Shipping. The bi-monthly sailing referred to started with VILLE-DE-VERDUN which sailed from Marseilles 18/11.

Ref. to French Ships trading between Dakar and Marseilles, which he declares have already delivered 30 cargoes of ground nuts at Marseilles, he is most definite that 60% are commandeered by German authorities. (S.C.(1) Capetown 1203.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep for HIPPER

Photographs today showed the HIPPER class cruiser still in dock at Brest and that the Dock was being flooded. KENYA and all available destroyers in Western Approaches and Portsmouth Command were ordered to raise steam and sweep towards Ushant, in the anticipation that HIPPER may proceed to sea tonight.

Two submarines were ordered to patrol off Cherbourg, and two west of Ushant, where TAKU is patrolling.

A Hudson with special equipment was despatched to patrol off Brest. Air attack on HIPPER at Brest was ordered for tonight but had to be cancelled on account of bad weather.

Sweep for SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU (See 25/1)

Air reconnaissance in Denmark Strait today was negative. Visibility was good.

British Air Activity

Offensive operations by Coastal Command aircraft last night were cancelled on account of bad weather. Routine patrols today were curtailed for the same reason.

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on Shipping in Thames Estuary

Convoy F.N. 92 was repeatedly attacked this afternoon in the Thames Estuary. SS BELGIA was set on fire and abandoned, and drifted ashore at Frinton. Convoy F.S. 95 was also attacked several times and SS CATTFORD was damaged. A.P. Drifter FISHER BOY was also bombed, in the Wallet During these attacks at least two enemy aircraft were shot down, several ships probably participating in their destruction.

/SS MERIONES...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

SS MERIONES, ashore on Haisboro Sands was attacked again today. One of the trawlers acting as guard, GALVANI hit the attacking aircraft, which crashed subsequently at Horsey.

Mining

Bad weather caused minelaying operations by Coastal Command to be cancelled last night.

SS BEEMSTERDYK was mined this morning 12 miles west of the Smalls.

M/S Trawler BERVIE BRAES was slightly damaged by the detonation of a mine off Falmouth.

Several mines were exploded today off Spurn Point. Mines were also detonated in the Thames Estuary and off Liverpool.

Mediterranean

Tobruk

A channel has been swept into the harbour which is now open to sea traffic.
The army are proceeding with the installation of A.A. and Coast defences, pending which TERROR remains as guardship. The SAN GIORGIO is completely gutted. There are a number of sunken vessels in the harbour and considerable damage has been done to the quay and cranes. The internal communications are efficient.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

SS SONTAY
Intercepted

Force T intercepted Vichy French SS SONTAY this afternoon in the southern Indian Ocean and put an armed guard from ENTERPRISE on board. The SONTAY carries troops as well as cargo and mails for Dakar and France. S.O.Force T is escorting her towards Durban for the present.

Operation
"Breach"

S.O.Force K in FORMIDABLE with HAWKINS left Simonstown early this morning.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE. At 1130/26. (D.C. 1158/26).
At 2330/26.(D.C. 2345/26).

Exercise "Victor". Following particulars to reach Admty by 31/1
Meeting will be held at Admty. 1115/7/2.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1616/26).

Movements.

KELLY, KASHMIR. Arrived Plymouth 1110/25.
(C.in C. W.A. 0031/26).

BOREAS. Sailing postponed 24 hours.
(C.in C. Nore 0913/26).

ULSTER MONARCH. Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1000/26).

Western Patrol. MARSDALE take R.3 - S.3. MANISTEE take R.2. - S.2.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1142/26).

J.3968. Am sailing MAORI, DOUGLAS, MEYNELL, COTTESMORE p.m./26 and NIGERIA a.m./27 to Liverpool for J.3968.
(R.A.D.H.F. 1422/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Intend sailing J.3968 for Rosyth escorted by NIGERIA, MAORI, DOUGLAS, MEYNELL and COTTESMORE 1200/28. Speed of advance 15 knots approx. E.T.A. May Island 1215/30. Gun trial Liverpool Bay 1400 to 1800/28, North Minch onwards 1400 to 1800/29, between Aberdeen and May Island 0900 to 1200/30.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1515/26 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Request fighter escort (a) 1 Battleship 1 Cruiser 4 Destroyers (b) 0900/28 to 1530/30. (c) escort (d) Leaves Princes stage 0900/28. Bar L.V. 1200/28 thence 288° to 004° W. speed 9 knots. Thence to Rosyth. Route.
(F.O. Liverpool 1615/26 to H.Q.F.C.)

F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1043/22. C.in C. W.A. is requested to provide A/S escort as far as vicinity of Scapa.

2. C.in C. H.F. requested to provide such surface ship escort as may be available throughout the passage.

3. A/S escort for onward passage should, in the absence of orders from C.in C. H.F. be detailed by R.A.(D) using such destroyers as may be available.

4. R.A.(D) is requested to arrange necessar R/V for relief A/S escort.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1614/26).

433. Admiralty 1614/26. A/S escort to vicinity of Scapa. HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK, HESPERUS from Liverpool. JACKAL to R/V from Londonderry as arranged by F.O.I.C. Liverpool.

(2) HIGHLANDER is available for onward escort and is to proceed to Tyne on completion.

(3) HAVELOCK, HESPERUS refuel at Scapa and meet B.H.X.104.

(4) JACKAL proceed to Clyde from Scapa R/V.
(C.in C. W.A. 1847/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Destroyers under your orders return to harbour.
(S.O.Destroyers 2022/26 toMAORI).

Admiralty 1614/26. para.2. Intend sailing CURACOA to R/V J.3968 noon 28th and NIGERIA to relieve CURACOA daylight 29th by which time NIGERIA's defects will be completed. My 1422/26 to C.in C. H.F. is cancelled.
(R.A.D. H.F. 2312/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

558. F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1043/22 and 1614/24 Admiralty 1614/26 attached. CURACOA proceed passing Swiths 0600/27 to R/V with J.3968 at noon 28/1 off Bar Light Vessel.

2. Provide escort until relieved by NIGERIA.
(R.A.D. 2335/26 to CURACOA).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler lines tonight. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1436/26).

WOLFE, CIRCASSIA. — Sailed in accordance with F.O.C.N.P.'s 1230/24.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1540/26).

5th M/L.F. — My 1746/24. Request sailing of 5th M.L.F. may be delayed until M.L.140, now completing is in service. M.L.140 should be ready on 3rd February.
(R.A.C.F. 1614/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Sweep for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

Scapa departures 0030/26. C.in C. H.F. in NELSON with RODNEY, REPULSE, EDINBURGH, BIRMINGHAM, MAURITIUS, PHOEBE, NAIAD, AURORA, ARETHUSA, GALATEA, BEDOUIN, PUNJABI, MATABELE, PIORUN, TARTAR, KEPPEL, ESCAPADE, ELECTRA, ECHO, BRILLIANT, BRAGLE. (A.C.O.S. 0117/26).

Sweep for ADMIRAL HIPPER.

Raise steam with all available destroyers and KENYA.
(D.O.D.(H) 2102/26 to C.in C. W.A. and C.in C. Portsmouth).

Anticipated HIPPER may proceed to sea tonight making to eastward. Proceed with destroyers to position 270 Casquets 11, and carry out a sweep towards Ushant to intercept, timing your arrival off Plymouth, 1030/27. Fighter protection will be arranged.
(C.in C. W.A. 2231/26 to C.S.10).

Establish following Patrols.
(F.O.S. 1934/26 to PANDORA, L.27).
See Submarines.

One Hudson with special equipment to patrol off Brest.
(Plymouth H.Q.C.C. 2045/26).
See British Air Activity.

Submarines.

WILK, UNDAUNTED, SEALION.

Following S/M movements taking place today.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0314/26).

THUNDERBOLT OLYMPUS.

Estimated position 0800/26.
(Capt: S.2. 0815/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

SEALION. Sailed for excercise and patrol. (S.6. 0900/26).

UNDAUNTED. Sailed from Dundee 1030/26 for Methil. (S.9. 1129/26).

TAKU. My 1036. TAKU is to proceed to North Western part of her patrol Zone now. (F.O.S. 1221/26 to S/M's Area B).

TORBAY. Arrival Clyde escorted by WHITEBEAR. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1245/26).

PANDORA. Trawler KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL will R/V with you at 0900/27 180° St. Catherines 5 miles. (5 S. 1455/26 to PANDORA).

L.27. S.5's 1855/25. Sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1503/26).

Positions. At 0800/27 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1534/26 and 1737/26).

SEALION
INTREPID. Arrived Blyth. Trial unsatisfactory in spite of INTREPID being fitted 10 K/C oscillator. Maximum range obtainable 3 miles medium weather conditions. Not considered further trials useful in view of limited time available due to light conditions. Request instructions for INTREPID and SEALION. (S.6. 1540/26 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

Cancel my 1011/22 and my 1333/19. Intend sailing SEALION at 0900/27 routed gap A and positions 56° 56'N., 00° 12'W., 61° 05' N., 02° 04'E.
For patrol of Stadtlandet unescorted on the surface to Gap A thence diving by day.
(S.6. 1801/26).

Total Bombing Restrictions.

Ops. 125 26/1. Institute total S.B.R. area 24 from 0400/27 to 1200/27. Clyde Sanctuary from 1800/27 to 0800/28. Portsmouth Sanctuary from 0800/27 to 1200/27. Dartmouth Sanctuary from 0900 to 1700 daily from 27th to 31st inclusive. Forth Sanctuary from 1100 to 1600 daily from Monday to Friday each week until further notice commencing 27/1.
(H.Q.C.C. 1605/26).

PANDORA
L.27.

A. There is a possibility HIPPER Class Cruiser may leave Brest today Sunday and proceed up Channel keeping close to French Coast.

B. Establish patrols as follows. PANDORA within 8 miles radius of position 49° 53' N., 01° 48' W. L.27 within 8 miles radius of position 49° 53' N., 01° 14'W.

C. Submarines are not to be attacked unless definitely established as being hostile.
(F.O.S. 1934/26 to PANDORA L.27).

THUNDERBOLT,
OLYMPUS,
TAKU.

HIPPER Class Cruiser may leave Brest tonight Sunday. THUNDERBOLT establish patrol in vicinity 48° 05' N., 05° 45' W. OLYMPUS establish patrol in vicinity 48° 30'N., 06° 50' W.

TAKU is patrolling vicinity 47° 40'N., 06° 50' W. Submarines are not to be attacked unless definitely established as hostile.
(F.O.S. 2204/26 to THUNDERBOLT, OLYMPUS.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Shooting down of own Aircraft.

Your 1850/17. Air Ministry report 1435/24 that aircraft in question (a) had under carriage down (b) fired correct recognition signal after which A.A. fire was continued. Request you further investigate and report. (A.C.N.S.(H) 0014/26 to C.in C. Nore).

Your 1435/24. Understand date should read 17 Jan.

2. Following received from C.in C. Nore 17/1/41. Begins. N.O.I.C. Lowestoft reports at 1130 during alert, when military had been warned enemy aircraft approaching, single Wellington A/C flew at about 600 feet over centre of town from W. to E. Military opened fire, A/C turned North close to ships berths. Ships opened fire. Ends.

3. C.in C. Nore has been asked further to investigate in light of your message.

4. Report will be forwarded. Meanwhile request attention of all pilots concerned and Officer responsible for routing aircraft may be directed to S.D.158 (1) Section 34 articles I and II.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 0015/26 to Air Ministry).

Patrols.

Following additional patrols ordered today. Times to take off.
HORNLI 1030, BERT 0645, TROST 0845, STAB, 0855, UNST 0900.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0338/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Patrol HORNLI cancelled for today.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0934/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Search for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

This afternoon two battle aircraft will fly up Denmark Straits from Staalberghuk Light to Itraumnes Light keeping within sight of land and thence to position 067° 10'N., 023° 10'W. subsequently returning to Kaldadarnes.
(F.O.Iceland, 1141/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

514. Cipher 26/1. Your 98711 (M.O.8) 25/1. Battles patrolling Denmark Straits today as requested.
(G.O.C. Iceland 1331/26 to War Office.

O.516/26. My O.514/26. Denmark Straits between general limit 67° (?North) and 65° 20' (?North) and Iceland and 25° 30' W. patrolled 26th between 1305 and 1405 and 1455 and 1730 hours B.S.T. Nothing significant seen. View beyond 50 miles from coast restricted by fog but visibility (?North) and East excellent.
(G.O.C. Iceland 2015/26 to War Office).

Patrol off Brest (HIPPER).

One Hudson with special equipment to carry out a patrol outside Brest in case HIPPER is being sent out from there tonight. This aircraft to leave patrol area at dawn Beauforts to inform Hudson by W/T if HIPPER has left the dock when they arrive. Flares to be carried and dropped by Beauforts.
(Plymouth H.Q.C.C. 2045/26 to Admty).

Lorient.

AP/793. 26/1. Available aircraft of No. 217 Squadron to attack tonight U/Boats in Naval Dockyard at Lorient. Alternative target Brest.
(H.Q.C.C. 1143/26 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Brest.

All available A/C of 217 Squadron to attack HIPPER-class Cruiser at Brest tonight with Magnums tonight as soon as weather conditions permit.
(Plymouth H.Q.C.C. 2045/26 to Admty).

FURIOUS.

Admty's 1226/23 and my 1828/24. Please explain delays consequent on loading at Tail O' the Bank which are inevitable due to peculiarities of ship. Arrangements at Gladstone Dock Liverpool were admirable.
(FURIOUS 1431/26 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

812. Squadron. — All available A/C of 812 Squadron are to load up with torpedoes forthwith. They will probably be required at dawn 27/1. Further orders will be sent later. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2215/26 to N. Coates.)

Enemy Air Activity.

STAD ARNHEM. (Bombed 25/1). — Your 1651/25. No trace of survivors. Have insufficient fuel to remain until daylight, must abandon search at 0200 today. SALVONIA not met. (SKEENA 0145/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

MERIONES. — Departure at 0625/26 KROONAN to Merriones after coaling. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0710/26).

MOSTYN. — Proceed to stand by SALVONIA endeavouring to locate and tow S.S. MOSTYN bombed and abandoned in 054° 30'N., 014° 52'W. SALVONIA reported in 054° 22'N., 015° 20' W at 1400/25 probably searching further to westward. (C.in C. W.A. 0839/26 to ARABIS).

SALVONIA abandoning search for MOSTYN at dark today and returning to harbour. Endeavour to locate SALVONIA and return to harbour in company. (C.in C. W.A. 1535/26 to ARABIS).

Brest. — W/T detection suggests special German Naval aircraft reconnaissance from Brest today. This may be connected with a movement in that area. (F.O.S. 1036/26 to S/M's, area B).

MOST SECRET.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Use of British Markings.

It has been recently reported that a Folke Wolf Condor aircraft engaged in attacking merchant shipping in N.W. Approaches was carrying British markings. (D.D.I.C. 1147/26).

2 Aircraft over Scapa Flow.

Two enemy aircraft were plotted over the Flow at 1245/26 and at 1420. On first occasion fire was opened by unseen (?Fleet spotting aircraft). Weather conditions low cloud and snow. It is possible on second occasion aircraft saw into the Flow.
(A.C.O.S. 1521/26 to Admty).

Convoy F.S.95.

Enemy aircraft bombing F.S.Convoy in 51° N., 1° 25'E. Course 228 speed 8 knots. (FLEETWOOD 1520/26).

Convoy F.N.92.

One enemy aircraft position 51° 8'N., 1° 31'E. 3 bombs no hits.
(WESTMINSTER 1520/26).

My 1515 2 bombs no hits.
(GARTH 1535/26).

Convoy F.S.95.

Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy in 51° N., 1° E.
(WALLACE 1553/26).

3 bombs. 1 JU 88 shot down flames. One unidentified aircraft shot down.
(WALLACE 1601/26).

My 1601. No hit on convoy. JU.88 crashed by B five buoy, wreckage and note book(s) only recovered. Second plane forced landing on East of Barrow probably M.E.110. One body and one prisoner recovered.
(WALLACE 1705/26 to C.in C. Nore).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy F.N.92.

Even numbered F.S.Convoy (AGENT) being repeatedly attacked by single aircraft in 51° 56'N., 1° 41'E. (WESTMINSTER 1625/26).

BECKENHAM.

(British, 4636 Tons). Gunned in 61° 30'N., 21° 19'W. (Lyness W/T. 2046/26).

WOOLER.

(British 507 Tons) Reported set on fire and considerably damaged by H.E. bomb during air raid on Victoria Wharf, Plymouth not London as previously reported. (B.M.S.E. 285/27/1.)

A/Cs shot down. Attacks on FISHER BOY and Convoy F.S.95.

At 1656 today F.O.I.C. Harwich reported that A.P. Drifter FISHER BOY, after being bombed at 1600 in the Wallet (no damage) believed she hit the enemy, whose pilot bailed out and was rescued by her.

Shortly afterwards at 1619 the A.P. Drifter REIDS reported having shot down an A/C near B.5 Buoy, and having recovered wreckage. At 1601 WALLACE with F.S.95 reported enemy A/C bombing. At 1705 reported no hits in this attack, and that a J.U. 88 had crashed near B.5 buoy wreckage and a note book recovered. She also reports a second A/C made forced landing on East Barrow probably M.E. 110 one body and one injured prisoner being recovered by her.

It appears likely that the above reports refer to the same two aircraft and that two have definately been brought down. Also an unconfirmed report from S.S. GRANGETOFT that she brought down another near B.2 buoy will be investigated in the morning.
(C.in C. Nore 1949/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

BEEMSTERDYK. Explosion 12 miles 290° . Smalls S.O.S. (Lands End 0927/26).

Still floating approx. 12 miles of Smalls bearing 290° . Sinking slowly. (BEEMSTERDYK 0930/26).

Rescue tug GOLIATH sailed to assist. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1220/26).

Have to abandon ship. (BEEMSTERDYK 1239/26).

Liverpool. At 1000 today three heavy underwater explosions felt disturbed water in position approx. 180° from Bar Light 11 Cables. Sighted by Officer of Watch at third explosion. (CROCUS 1030/26).

Your T.O.7569/40 and my 1845/25. Mine detonated by RUNSWICK BAY at 1000/25. Details. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1500/26).

Thames Estuary. Red mine detonated 272° No.2. Sea Reach Buoy 4 cables. at 0930/26. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 1032/26).

A/C Minelaying. For tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1145/26).

Falmouth. BERVIE BRAES damaged. S.A. gear type A detonated mine at 0925/26 in 50° 7' 53" N., 5° 1' 45" W. Only slight damage to vessel. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1455/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Mining Operation.

Admiralty 1032/16 and 1411/11.

1. Trials by INTREPID and SEALION not successful.

2. In view of importance attached to carrying out operation it is intended to dispense with assistance of SEALION, the decision to lay or not being left to discretion of Commander D.20.

3. When ready IMPULSIVE now at Immingham is to sail to R/V with INTREPID off Blyth, both ships proceeding in company to Scapa.

4. Commander D.20 report E.T.A. Scapa to C.in C. H.F. and A.C.O.S.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1757/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Spurn Point.

Six mines exploded today by sweepers as follows. Spontaneous explosions occurred at 1340 in 219° Spurn Point lighthouse 0.5 miles and at 1335 in position 244° Spurn Point Lighthouse 2.7 miles.
(F.O. Humber 1849/26).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest ADMIRAL HIPPER.

My 1129/26. Preliminary reports of photographic reconnaissance of Brest show HIPPER in dock at noon today.
(D.D.I.C. 1312/26 and 1816/26).

There are W/T indications of enemy air reconnaissance in the Brest area p.m. today 26th Jan.

Air reconnaissance shows HIPPER in dock at noon today. Dock was being flooded.
(D.D.I.C. 2052/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Unknown Unit off Bergen.	By D/F at 1606/26 unknown enemy unit probably destroyer or larger vessel, was in the vicinity of Bergen. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1659/26).
M/V off Haugesund.	Aircraft reports M/V about 8000 tons near Haugesund steering 170° 10 knots at 1300. (F.O.S. 1841/26).
TORDENSKJOLD.	My 2002/15. Norwegian TORDENSKJOLD passed through Great Belt Southward in tow on 22/1. Graded A.2. (D.D.I.C. 2158/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.N.73. — Arrived 0915/26.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0940/26).

Coastal Convoys.

7 ships sailing for Dartmouth. — Your 1648/25 addressed C.in C. W.A. these ships cannot be received at Dartmouth until 28/1.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0952/26).

F.N.89.
F.N.90. — F.N.89 Tyne ships arrived except Tynemouth.
F.N.90 arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0953/26).

E.N.63.
W.N.76. — Act as additional A/A escort to E.N.63 sailing at 0400/28. on meeting transfer to W.N.76 due Cape Wrath 0130/29 and Duncansby 1230/29. Code word for E.N.63 Usage and for W.N.76 Metric.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1000/26 to JASON).

O.B.C.
279. — (A) 1930/28.
(B) ARROW, OURAGON, HEARTSEASE, HOLLYHOCK.
(C) 30.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1031/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

W.N.72. — Scapa. Departure 1015 CURACOA and HASTINGS for escort of convoy W.N.72.
(A.C.O.S. 1131/26).

F.N.92. — Southend 26/1, departures for Harwich with Convoy F.N.92 H.M.T. KINGSTON OLIVINE, AGATE, LORD PLENDER.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1136/26).

F.S.95. — Reported in Barrow Deep. 42 Ships for London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1155/26).

Reel K-1-B-

War Diaries

1/1/41 to 31/1/41

cont on Reel K-2-B.

ENDING OF

REEL K-I-B

DOCUMENTS - PHOTOGRAPHED

Admiralty War Diaries 1-1-41 to 31/12/41 can't am Reel K-2-B.	

ONI

DATE: April 10th 1946.

MACH. NO. 475

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: J Cunningham